

NO.
20

PEEP

ACTION
DETECTIVE
ADVENTURE

COMICS 10¢

OCT.



LAWBREAKERS!!! the
noose is your warning
— the gallows is your
goal; you can't escape
THE HANGMAN

NOVICK



WEB COMIC UNIVERSE.COM

USE THIS ENTIRE COUPON!!!

JUST PRINT PLAINLY ON THIS COUPON, YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AGE AND SEND IT TO ME WITH 10¢ TO COVER COST OF MAILING AND HANDLING



Joe Higgins
Room 315
60 Hudson St.
New York City

DEAR JOE,
PLEASE ENROLL ME AS A MEMBER OF THE **SHIELD G-MAN CLUB**. I AM ENCLOSED THIS COUPON TOGETHER WITH TEN CENTS TO COVER THE COSTS OF HANDLING AND MAILING MY BADGE AND IDENTIFICATION CARD.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
AGE _____

EXACT COPY OF BADGE
IN THREE COLORS
RED-WHITE-BLUE

CUT ON THIS LINE

BULLETIN #4

I want to thank the thousands who have written me telling how much they liked the picture which appears on the back cover of August PEP, September ZIP, TOP NOTCH and BLUE RIBBON COMICS. I hope all my friends have framed it and have it hanging up in their clubrooms. My personal thanks to Malcolm Forsyth of Ruston, La., who is our twenty thousandth member, who writes he has started a club called "The Night Riders of America", which is to be a subsidiary of the SHIELD G-MAN CLUB. Isn't that swell? Claudius Mendell of 840 Emerson, Saginaw, Mich., writes he has an idea for a code, called the Shield G-Man Code-O-Graph. He prepared and sent me for examination one of these code-o-graphs. Now fellows, I wanted to discuss a secret code in this issue, but frankly, haven't received enough suggestions from you. Get on your thinking caps and send me your ideas for a SHIELD G-MAN Code, which I will compare with Claudius' suggestion. Which one of you would like to have the distinction of being the originator of the secret code PEP COMICS will select for its SHIELD G-MAN CLUB. I'll be waiting for your many letters.

Now Cecil Griffith of San Ysidro, Calif., writes a very interesting letter. Cecil's father used to be with the Border Patrol and what do you think happened to Cecil? One day while looking through his binoculars, Cecil spotted two suspicious looking characters. He immediately notified the authorities who apprehended these men who turned out to be smugglers. Congratulations Cecil. I hope all of our members will hold foremost in their minds the maintenance of law and order, and if any of you have had similar experiences, write me and I'll mention it on the Club page. Dusty and myself want to feel that our Club is helping to build fine upright American youths.

Well so long for now and see if you can't snow me under with all these suggestions of our new code.

Joe Higgins

THE ONE AND ONLY

SHIELD

WITH **DUSTY**
THE BOY DETECTIVE



AS DUSK LAYS A HEAVY HAND OVER THE CITY, A GRIM TABLEAU IS ENACTED IN AN APARTMENT.... MURDER AND A KIDNAPPING. AND THAT INDOMITABLE DUO, THE SHIELD AND DUSTY, ARE BOY DETECTIVE, ARE SOON TO BE BROUGHT FACE TO FACE WITH THEIR MOST FORMIDABLE FOE, DOCTOR WANG.

By
MURKIN and SHURTEN



UMPH!
GLUB!

QUICK! CARRY THE BABY DOWNSTAIRS!



A CAR, MOTOR HUMMING IN READINESS, WAITS, PARKED NEARBY!





BUT REMEMBER, KEEP ON HIS TRAIL SO THAT WE CAN GET THE INFANT BACK WHEN WE'VE GIVEN THE THE SHIELD THE SLIP, IF YOU LOSE THE BABY, DR. WANG WILL KILL YOU LIKE DOGS!



EXCUSE ME, BUT COULD YOU TELL ME THE TIME?



WHY... ER.. AH.. SURE! WAIT A MINUTE, WILL YA, MAMIE? STOP SHOVIN' PACKAGES INTO MY ARMS!

SUFFERIN' CATFISH! A BABY!.. HEY YOU GUYS, COME BACK! IT AIN'T MINE! COME BACK I TELL YA!



NOW WHAT'D THEY WANNA DO THAT FOR? I FEEL LIKE I'M HANDLIN' A LOAD OF DYNAMITE... STOP PULLIN' MY TIE, WILL YA?



HEAVENS! IMAGINE BRINGING A BABY OUT ALMOST NAKED!



AW, GEE.. GULP! THE NERVE OF SOME FATHERS!

YOUNG MAN, YOU OUGHT TO BE HORSE-WHIPPED! HAVEN'T YOU ANY FEELING FOR YOUR OWN CHILD?



BUT.. G.. GOSH LADY, I'M TRYIN' TO TELL YA, IF YOU'LL ONLY LISTEN!

JUST THEN, THE FLOOR MANAGER COMES UP.....



BEG YOUR PARDON, SIR, BUT AREN'T YOU LOOKING FOR THE INFANTS WEAR DEPARTMENT?

WHEW!

IT'S NEXT FLIGHT UP! SHALL I SHOW YOU THE WAY?



YEAH, SURE! ER... AH... THAT'S JUST WHAT I CAME HERE FOR... TO BUY TH' KID SOME CLOTHES!



LATER... I AIN'T GONNA HANG AROUND WITH ALL THEM FEMALES GAWKIN' AT ME. I'LL GO TO BETTY'S APARTMENT, MAMIE KIN MEET ME THERE.



MEANWHILE... WELL, LOOKS LIKE I'VE LOST THOSE KIDNAPPERS ALL RIGHT. ONLY THING FOR ME TO DO IS TO GO BACK AND JOIN DUSTY!



HIYA, BETTY!
WHY, JU JU WATSON, WHAT ON EARTH HAVE YOU GOT THERE?



A COUPLA GOONS PUSHED A BABY RIGHT INTO MY FACE BEFORE I KNEW WHAT IT WUZ ALL ABOUT, 'N THEN BEAT IT. IT MUST'VE BEEN A SNATCH!
IT WOULD HAPPEN TO YOU!



ISN'T HE THE SWEETEST THING? ... WE'D BETTER CALL UP JOE AND TELL HIM ABOUT IT!
EVERY-TIME SOME-THIN' HAPPENS, YOU CALL UP JOE!



WHATS'A MATTER WITH ME? AM I A STEP-CHILD? DON'TCHA OH, ALL RIGHT, HANDLE 'EM YOURSELF, I WON'T CALL JOE!



THAT'S ALL THEY KNOW, 'CALL UP JOE'. I'LL SHOW 'EM SOME REAL SLEUTHIN'. I'LL GO DOWN TO THE BUREAU OF MISSIN' PERSONS AND LOCATE THAT KID'S FOLKS.



YOU THE CHIEF CLERK? WELL, I'M A G-MAN ON A KIDNAP CASE. I WANNA TAKE A GANDER AT YOUR FILES!
SURE!

HERE THEY ARE... HELP YOURSELF!

JUST LET ME HAVE 'EM, ONE AT A TIME!



I GOT IT, BABY! I'LL FOLLOW IT UP RIGHT AWAY!



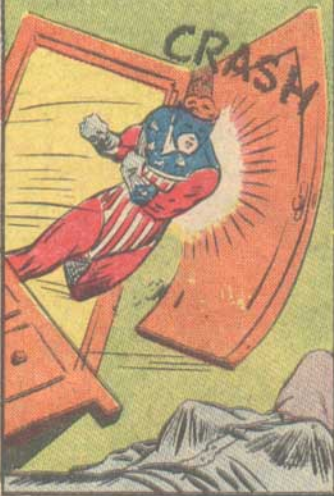
WELL, HERE IT IS...
HMM...THERE'S SOMETHIN' FAMILIAR ABOUT IT... WHERE 'VE I SEEN THIS PLACE BEFORE?



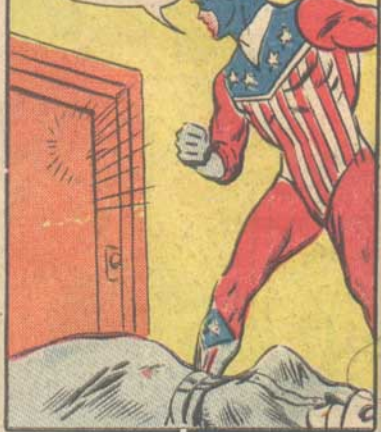
PROBABLY JUST MY IMAGINATION. I'LL WAIT HERE IN HIDIN'. THE KIDNAPPERS MAY COME BACK WITH A RANSOM NOTE!



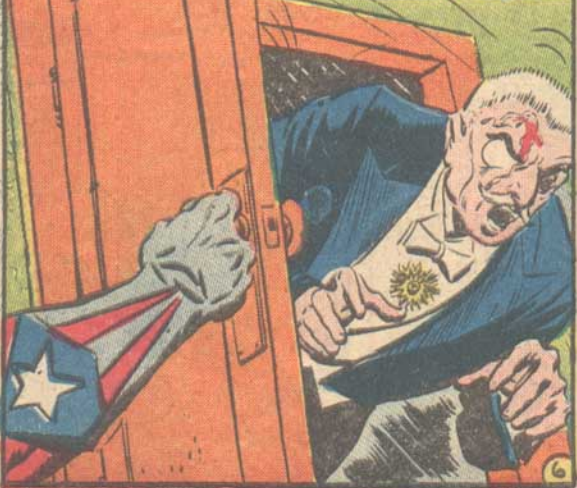
MEANWHILE, THE SHIELD ARRIVES AT THE KIDNAP APARTMENT...



THIS GIRL'S DEAD, WONDER WHERE DUSTY IS. WAIT... WHAT'S THAT? SOUNDS LIKE TAPPING COMING FROM THAT CLOSET!



THE SHIELD OPENS THE CLOSET DOOR, AND...



TH..THEY LEFT ME FOR DEAD...ORIENTAL BEHIND THIS...HEARD THEM CALL HIM DOCTOR OF...OF SOME KIND!

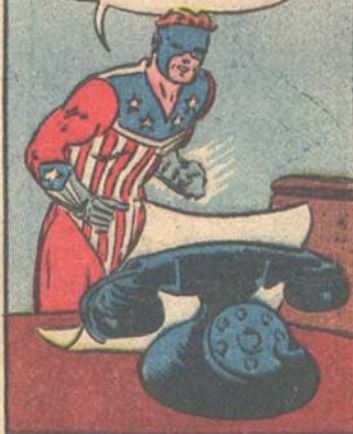
BELLS OF HADES...DOCTOR WANG!



..MUST GET BABY BACK OR
TERRIBLE INTERNATIONAL
CONSEQUENCES WILL RESULT!
BABY IS KING OF RUTHAMA..
..BROUGHT HIM TO AMERICA-
TO KEEP HIM OUT OF DICTAT-
OR'S HANDS UNTIL OLD
ENOUGH TO SIT ON THRONE..

THEY...THEY'LL TRY TO...
TO GET ABOARD PLANE
AT AIRPORT...FOR....
QUICK ESCAPE?...MUST
GET THERE BEFORE
THEY...DO...
AAAHH...

BUT WHAT CAN HAVE HAP-
PENED TO DUSTY?..SAY,
I DIDN'T NOTICE THAT
NOTE BEFORE..!



CONFOUND THAT CLEVER
FIEND WANG! HE KNEW
I'D BE HERE AND LEFT
THIS NOTE FOR ME!

HE SAYS HE'LL KILL DUSTY
WITHOUT A QUALM...AND I
KNOW HE'D DO IT! FIRST,
I'LL CALL UP BETTY AND
WARN HER TO STAY OUT OF
SIGHT! WANG MIGHT TRY TO
GET HER
TOO!

HELLO!..JOE?
I'M GLAD YOU
CALLED!



DR. WANG IS ON THE
LOOSE, BETTY! HE'S
KIDNAPPED A BABY-
KING, AND...

BABY?
THAT'S FUNNY!
JU JU JUST
BROUGHT A
STRAY BABY
HERE, AND I
THOUGHT...

SUDDENLY...

GLUMPH!



GREAT GHOSTS! MY HUNCH WAS RIGHT! WANG MUST BE IN HER ROOM RIGHT NOW!



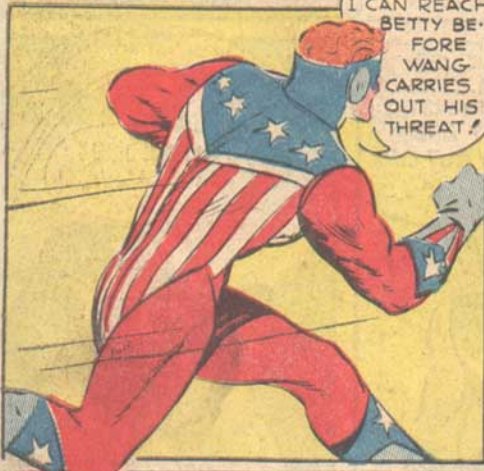
YES, MY DEAR HIGGINS! YOUR HUNCH WAS RIGHT! NOW WARN YOUR FRIEND THE SHIELD, THAT I HOLD ALL THE TRUMPS! YOUR FRIEND BETTY DIES AT ONCE, HEH HEH!



YOU SEE MY CLEVERNESS, MISS WARREN! THE SHIELD IS SURE TO COME RUNNING HERE TO SAVE YOU SO THAT HE WON'T HAVE TIME TO INTERFERE WITH MY DEPARTURE... BUT IF HE SHOULD, I STILL HAVE HIS YOUNG BOY FRIEND! FAREWELL! YOU, AT LEAST, SHALL CROSS MY PATH, NO LONGER!



PRAY HEAVEN, I CAN REACH BETTY BEFORE WANG CARRIES OUT HIS THREAT!



MEANWHILE JUJU, THE MASTER SLEUTH, KEEPS A "VIGILANT" WATCH ON THE RUDLEY APARTMENTS!



GOTTA MATCH, MISTER?

SURE!

TO THE AIRPORT, RUDOLPH! AS SOON AS WE TAKE OFF, THIS ACCURSED BRAT WILL NEVER BE ANOTHER THORN IN MY SIDE AGAIN!

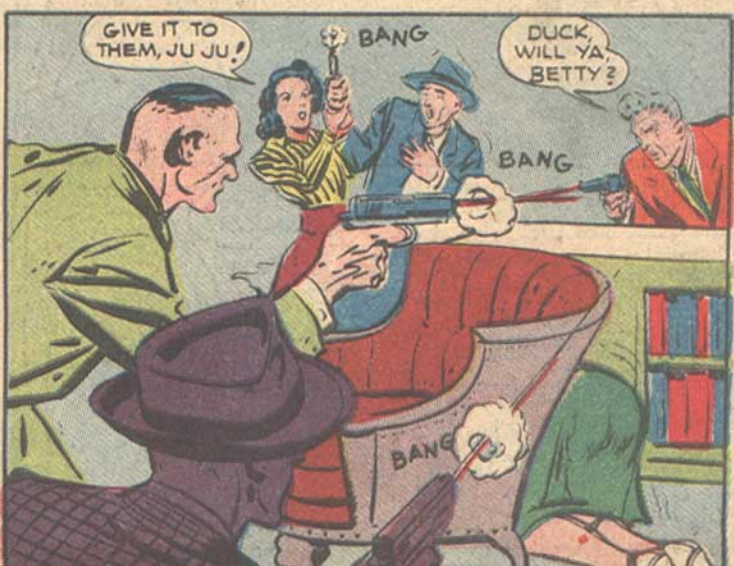


JUMPIN' JIVE! THAT'S MAMIE... WHAT'S SHE DOIN' AROUND HERE, ANYWAY?



WOW! NOW I KNOW WHY THIS SECTION LOOKS FAMILIAR. I'VE BEEN WATCHIN' THE APARTMENT HOUSE BETTY LIVES IN!





JU JU...
OH HH!

UGH!
I...I'M
SHOT!

NOW, WE WIPE THEM
ALL OUT, QUICK,
HURRY TO THE AIR-
FIELD...DR. WANG
HAS BEEN LEFT
WAITING TOO
LONG, ALREADY!

WELL,
WELL, LOOKS
LIKE I GOT HERE
JUST IN TIME
TO BE THE LIFE
OF THE PARTY!

THE
SHIELD!

WHAM BOOM
BANG
CRASH

OOF!

JU, JU, SWEET-
HEART, SPEAK
TO ME, (SOB,
SOB) SHIELD,
HE...HE'S
DEAD!

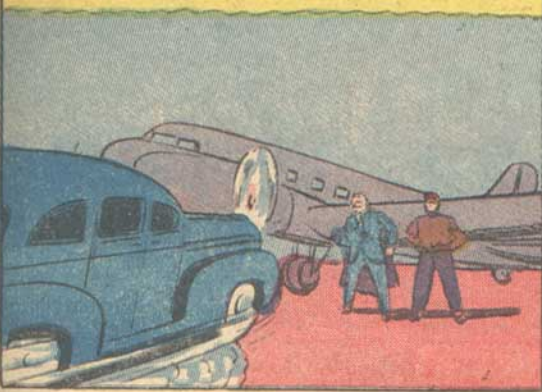
NO, HE'S NOT, HIS
HEART'S BEATING STRONGLY!
SOMETHING DEFLECTED THE
BULLET... SAY... WHAT'S
THIS?

THE SHIELD REMOVES THE
LIFE-SAVING OBJECT...

A LOVE
LOCKET!

WHEN HE COMES TO
HAVE HIM PUT THESE
KIDNAPPERS IN STIR,
I'VE GOT SOME MORE
UNFINISHED BUSINESS

DR WANG ARRIVES AT THE AIRPORT...



HA! NOTHING CAN STOP US NOW! SOON, THE CHILD KING WILL BE IN YOUR DICTATOR'S HANDS!

THE PLANE TAKES OFF...



FRANTICALLY, THE BOY DETECTIVE WORKS TO LOOSEN HIS BONDS UNTIL...



ALL RIGHT, WE'RE SAFE FROM THE SHIELD, NOW! GET RID OF THE IMP!

WITH PLEASURE!



THE PLEASURE IS ALL MINE!

OOMMPH!



LUKK!

THIS IS TURNING OUT TO BE A JOY RIDE, AFTER ALL!



AND I MUSTN'T OVERLOOK YOU, WANG!



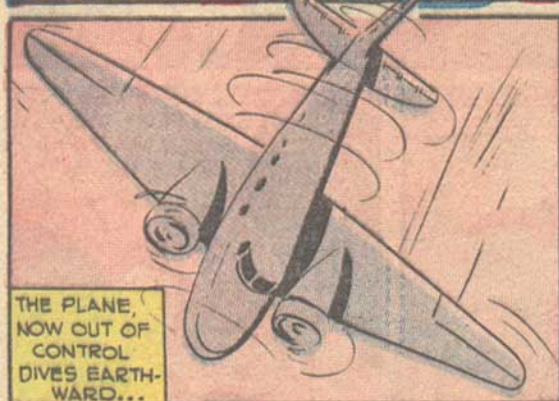
DONNERWETTER! I MISSED!

THANKS FOR HELPING ME!



BUT I DIDN'T REALLY NEED IT!

UKK!



THE PLANE, NOW OUT OF CONTROL DIVES EARTHWARD...



JUST THEN, THE SHIELD ARRIVES.....

SUFFERING CATFISH! IT'S GOING TO CRASH!



BUT, JUST BEFORE THE PLANE CAN HIT THE GROUND

(GRUNT) GOT IT!



WELL, WELL, LOOKS LIKE YOU HANDLED YOUR END, ALL RIGHT!

HIYA, SHIELD! THEY GAVE ME A LITTLE TROUBLE, BUT THE KIDS OKAY, WHAT'S NEXT ON THE MENU?



I'LL WIRE AHEAD TO RUTHAMA AND TELL 'EM THEIR KING'S IN GOOD HANDS, YOU GO ON BACK TO BETTY'S APARTMENT WITH HIM!

THIS INFANT A KING? WOW!



LATER..

HELLO, FOLKS!

HMMMPH! IT'S HIGH TIME YOU SHOWED UP, MR. HIGGINS!

IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR JU JU WATSON'S CLEVER SLEUTHING, WE MIGHT ALL HAVE BEEN DEAD, NOW!

I ALWAYS SAID JU JU'S A GOOD MAN!

AW, THE WHOLE THING WUZ SIMPLE... THAT IS, PER A GUY LIKE ME, I JUST PICKED UP A CLUE IN THE BUREAU OF MISSIN' PERSONS, 'N THEN...

THERE'S THE PHONF! I'LL ANSWER IT!



HELLO... WHO? THE BUREAU OF MISSING PERSONS? HMM... IS THAT SO? HA, HA, HA... I'LL TELL MR. WATSON. THANKS!

TELL ME WHAT, JOE, THAT CLUE YOU FOUND, YOU WERE LOOKING AT A KIDNAPPING THAT HAPPENED IN 1841!

BUT WHAT'S A MERE HUNDRED YEARS TO A G-MAN LIKE YOU, HA, HA, HA!

YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS, JOE, MY JU JU'S SMART!



THE KID THINKS SO TOO, LOOKA HIM GRAB FER ME!

YOU'VE GOT A WAY WITH KIDS AS WELL AS WOMEN, JU JU!

HEE, HEE, HE'S KINDA CUTE AT THAT, I'LL BE SORRY TO GIVE HIM BACK! AAA KITCHY, KITCHY KITCHY, KOO!

GOO!

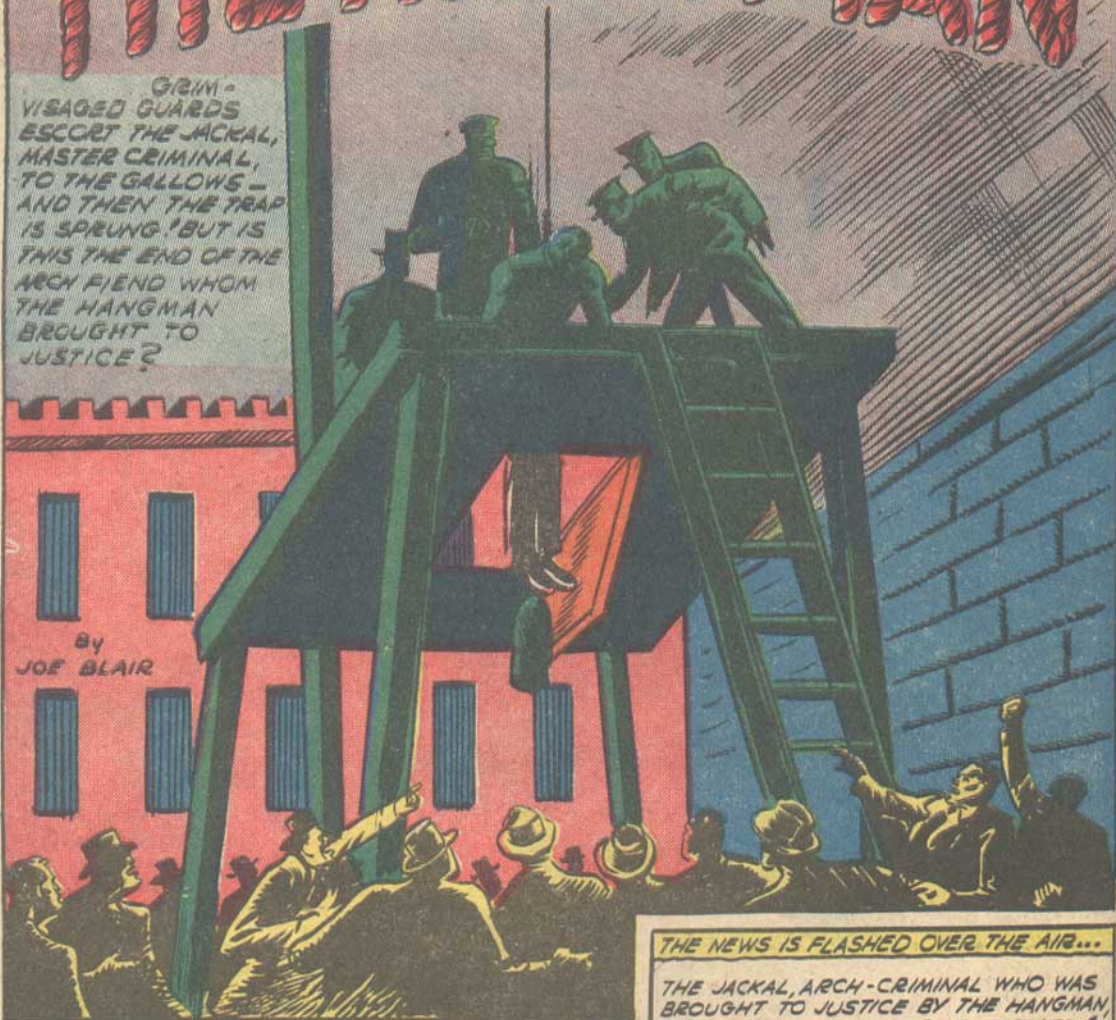


THE ORIGINAL SHIELD AND DUSTY THE BOY DETECTIVE APPEAR ONLY IN PEP comics AND SHIELD-WIZARD comics

THE HANGMAN

GRIM-VISAGED GUARDS ESCORT THE JACKAL, MASTER CRIMINAL, TO THE GALLOWES — AND THEN THE TRAP IS SPRUNG! BUT IS THIS THE END OF THE ARCH FIEND WHOM THE HANGMAN BROUGHT TO JUSTICE?

By
JOE BLAIR



THE NEWS IS FLASHED OVER THE AIR...

THE JACKAL, ARCH-CRIMINAL WHO WAS BROUGHT TO JUSTICE BY THE HANGMAN, HAS BEEN EXECUTED BY THE STATE. BEFORE THE MAN DIED, HIS LAST WORDS WERE THAT HE WOULD RETURN TO KILL THOSE WHO HAD SENT HIM TO THE GALLOWES!

THE PRISON DOCTOR EXAMINES THE JACKAL..

THIS MAN IS DEAD!



BOB DICKERING AND THELMA GORDON HEAR THE NEWS OVER THEIR RADIO....

ONE MORE CULPRIT IS DEAD. THE JACKAL SOCIETY IS FREE FROM!



BUT I'M WORRIED ABOUT HIS THREAT TO KILL YOU AND ME AND THE JUDGE WHO SENTENCED HIM! DO YOU SUPPOSE...



AT THAT MOMENT, THE JACKAL'S COFFIN IS PLACED IN THE HEARSE...



EASY DOES IT, BOYS!

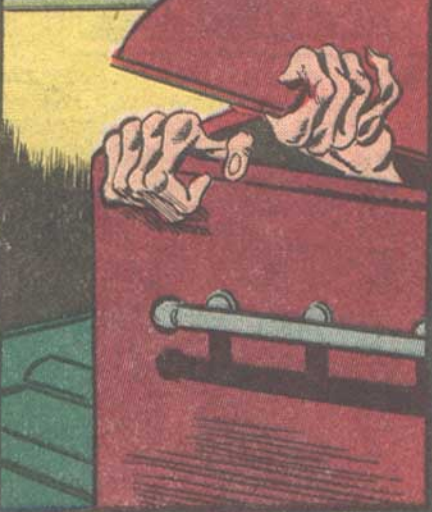
AND THE PRISON DOCTOR CLIMBS IN BESIDE THE DRIVER, TO BEGIN THE JOURNEY TO THE CEMETERY...



THE HEARSE DRIVES OUT THE GATES, AND...



...A FEW MINUTES LATER...



THE JACKAL CLIMBS OUT OF HIS COFFIN, AND HIS FINGERS START TO CLOSE AROUND THE DRIVER'S NECK...



IS EVERYTHING OKAY, DOC? I HAVE A FEELING THAT...



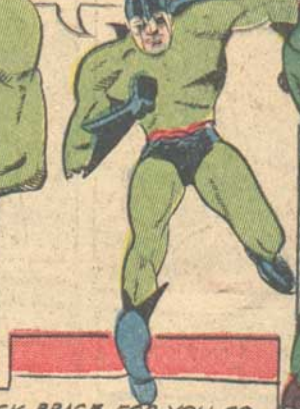
HELP!

MEANWHILE... SINCE YOU'RE STILL WORRIED ABOUT THE JACKAL, I'LL GO OUT TO THE CEMETERY AND SEE HIM BURIED WITH MY OWN EYES!

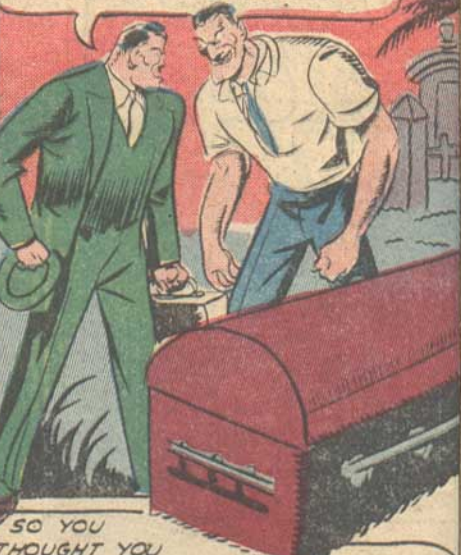


THE HANGMAN RACES ON HIS WAY...

I WOULDN'T ADMIT IT TO THEL, BUT I HAVE A STRANGE FEELING THE JACKAL IS ALIVE MYSELF!



AT THE CEMETERY.. YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO KILL THE DRIVER, JACKAL! THAT WAS NEEDLESS!



WHEN I RIGGED UP THAT NECK BRACE FOR YOU, SO YOU WOULDN'T BE KILLED WHEN THEY SPRUNG THE TRAP, I ONLY DID IT BECAUSE THEY PROMISED ME A CUT OF THE LOOT YO HAVE STACKED AWAY. I DIDN'T - HEY! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?



SO YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO CASH IN ON MY LOOT, EH? HA, HA, HA! THIS IS YOUR REWARD, SAW-BONES! THE JACKAL DOESN'T LEAVE ANY WITNESSES TO SQUEAL ON HIM!



NOW I'LL JUST PUT THIS BODY IN HERE AND LEAVE HIM FOR THE CARE-TAKERS TO BURY!



AS THE JACKAL DRIVES THE HEARSE OUT OF THE CEMETARY, THE HANGMAN ARRIVES.



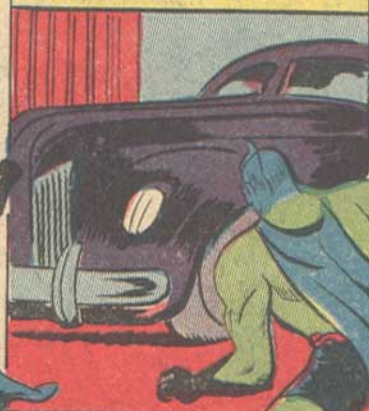
WHAT'S THIS!! THAT ISN'T THE JACKAL! GOOD LORD - IS IT POSSIBLE THE JACKAL ESCAPED THE GALLOWSE?



IF THE JACKAL IS STILL LOOSE, THELMA AND JUDGE HALE ARE IN MORTAL DANGER! BUT I'M GOING TO GET TO THE PRISON FIRST AND HAVE A TALK WITH THE WARDEN!



AS AN OFFICIAL CAR LEAVES THE PRISON YARD, THE HANGMAN PREPARES TO DASH THROUGH THE OPEN GATES...



THE HANGMAN! WHAT'S HE DOIN' HERE?

PLUG 'IM, BOYS!



THE HANGMAN LEAPS UP A WALL AND VAULTS ACROSS...



THEN RACES TOWARDS THE WARDEN'S OFFICE...

SORRY TO BE SO IMPOLITE, I'LL APOLOGIZE LATER!



HANGMAN! WHAT'S UP?

THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO KNOW! WAS THE JACKAL HANGED OR WASN'T HE?



OF COURSE HE WAS! I SAW IT MYSELF! THE PRISON DOCTOR PRO-NOUNCED HIM DEAD!



WHAT'S THE PRISON DOCTOR LOOK LIKE?

WHY, HE'S HUSKY WITH A SMALL MUSTACHE, AND -

THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT!



YOUR PRISON DOCTOR IS DEAD, WARDEN! AND THE JACKAL KILLED HIM... NOW, DO ME A FAVOR! CALL THELMA GORDON AND TELL HER TO STAY HOME 'TIL SHE HEARS FROM ME!



THE HEARSE, MEANTIME, ARRIVES AT THE CENTER OF THE MID-TOWN BRIDGE...

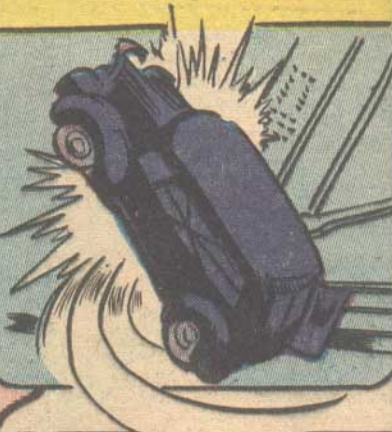
NOW I'LL JUST PUT THE DRIVER BEHIND THE WHEEL, HOP OUT AND WATCH IT CRASH!



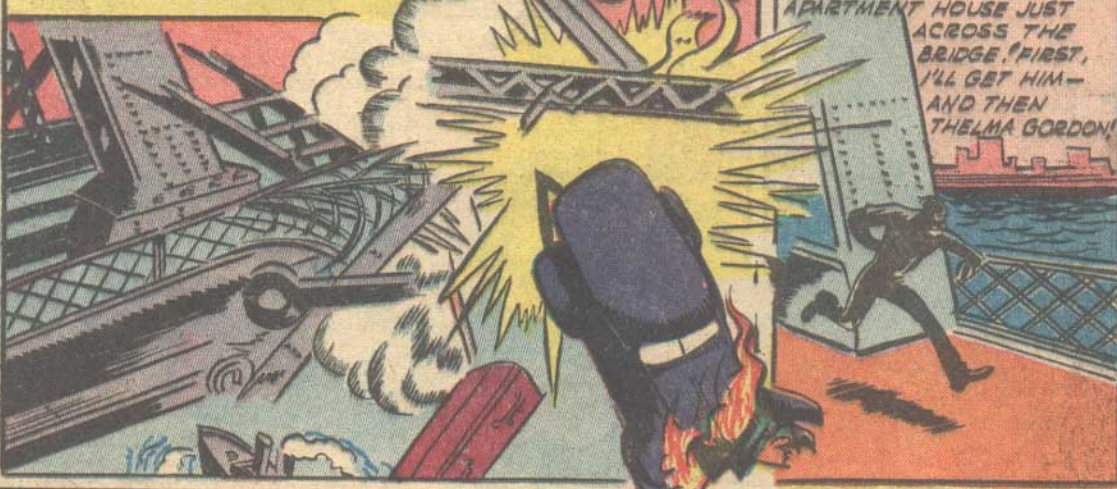
HEH, HEH! PERFECT PLANNING! NOBODY WILL EVER KNOW WHAT HAPPENED!



THE HEARSE CRASHES HEAD-ON INTO THE STEEL GUARD RAIL...



...AND HURTLES OFF THE BRIDGE PLUNGING AND TWISTING HUNDREDS OF FEET INTO THE RIVER BELOW!



PERFECT! ABSOLUTELY PERFECT!...NOW JUDGE HALE LIVES IN THE APARTMENT HOUSE JUST ACROSS THE BRIDGE. FIRST, I'LL GET HIM - AND THEN THELMA GORDON!

THE HANGMAN RINGS THELMA'S APARTMENT.. HELLO! ANTHRACITE? LISTEN CLOSELY, THE JACKAL IS ON THE LOOSE AGAIN. DON'T TELL MISS GORDON, BUT...



I GIT YOU, BOSS! YAS SUH, AH'LL PER-TECK HER WITH MAH LIFE! YES SIREE!

WHO CALLED, ANTHRACITE?

OH-AH- THAT WAS MISTAH DICKERING, MISS GORDON! HE SAID AH SHOULD TAKES CARE OF YOU ALL TILL HE GIT'S BACK! IF'N YOU ALL IS SCARED OF DA JACKAL - RELAX YO' MIND! AH'LL STAND GUARD AT THE DOOR! YES SIREE!



THE JACKAL RACES TO
JUDGE HALE'S APARTMENT.

AND AFTER I GET HALE,
AND THE GORDON GIRL,
I'LL LURE THE HANGMAN
OUT AND KNOCK HIM
OFF TOO!



A WRECKING CREW IS HASTILY
SUMMONED TO RETRIEVE THE
HEARSE....



JUST AS THE HANGMAN
ARRIVES...

THAT'S THE PRISON
HEARSE! I'M ON
THE RIGHT
TRAIL, ALL
RIGHT! THE
JACKAL
CAN'T BE
FAR
AWAY!



AND THERE'S THE APARTMENT HOUSE WHERE
JUDGE HALE LIVES! THAT'S WHY THE JACKAL
WRECKED THE HEARSE ON THIS BRIDGE—MADE
IT EASY FOR HIMSELF TO BE WITHIN STRIKING
DISTANCE OF HIS NEXT VICTIM!



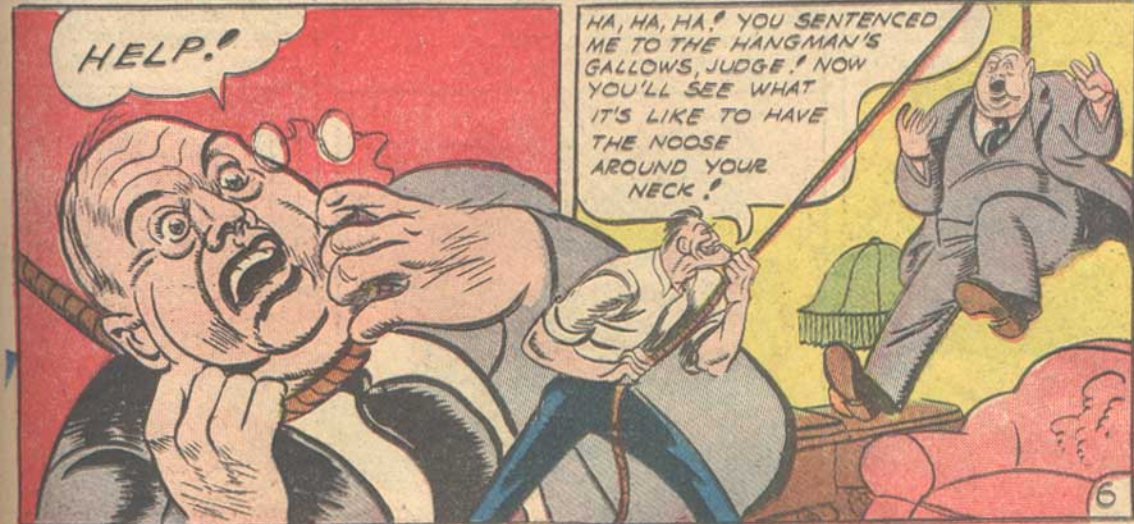
AS THE JUDGE SITS QUIETLY
READING IN HIS LIBRARY, A
NOOSE STARTS TO SETTLE
OVER HIM!...

SO THE JACKAL
WAS HANGED!
WELL, SOCIETY
CAN DO WITH-
OUT HIS KIND!



HELP!

HA, HA, HA! YOU SENTENCED
ME TO THE HANGMAN'S
GALLOWS, JUDGE! NOW
YOU'LL SEE WHAT
IT'S LIKE TO HAVE
THE NOOSE
AROUND YOUR
NECK!



A SPLIT-SECOND LATER, THE HANGMAN BURSTS THROUGH THE DOOR...

I HOPE I'M NOT TOO LATE!



ANOTHER FEW SECONDS AND HE'LL BE DEAD! MY REVENGE WILL BE BEGUN!

LET GO OF THAT ROPE, JACKAL!



THE HANGMAN LASHES OUT WITH A VICIOUS SERIES OF BLOWS....

AFTER WE HAVE A LITTLE LESSON IN FISTICUFFS, WE'LL GET ON WITH THE REGULAR MEETING!



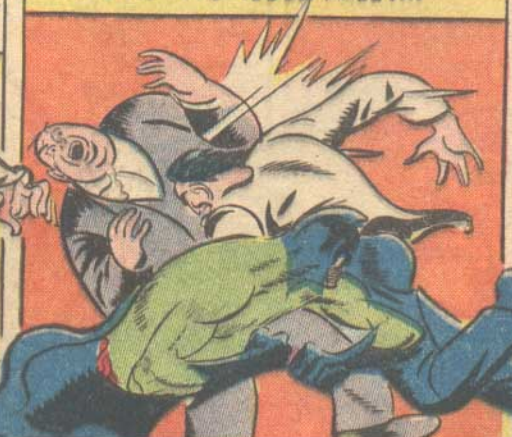
JUDGE HALE RIPS THE NOOSE FROM HIS NECK, AND STAGGERS TOWARDS THE WINDOW, GASPING FOR BREATH!...



I'LL KILL YOU BOTH! NOBODY CAN OUTFIGHT THE JACKAL!



AS THE HANGMAN SWINGS A LEFT UPPERCUT, THE JACKAL VEERS INTO JUDGE HALE....



AND HURLS HIM THROUGH THE WINDOW, HIGH ABOVE THE RIVER!



GOOD LORD! I HOPE HE DOESN'T HIT THE PIER!



HE DIDN'T! HE LANDED IN THE WATER! THERE'S STILL A CHANCE —



THE HANGMAN DIVES TO THE JUDGE'S RESCUE!..



A MOMENT LATER, HE COMES UP TO THE SURFACE...



WHAT THE HECK IS GOIN' ON HERE? OH-SAY, YOU-YOURE THE HANGMAN, THAT'S RIGHT, BUDDY, AND THIS IS JUDGE HALE, HE'S PRETTY BADLY SHAKEN UP!



SEE THAT HE GETS PROPER MEDICAL TREATMENT, AS FOR ME, I'VE GOT TO GET THE JACKAL, HE'S STILL ON THE LOOSE!

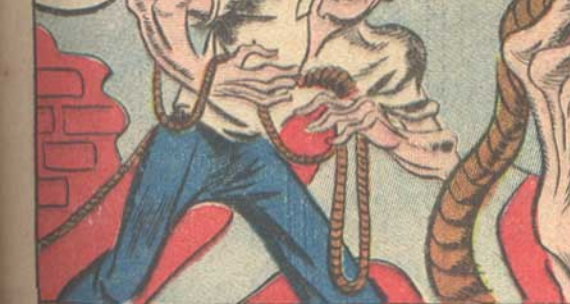
THE JACKAL? WOW! GOOD LUCK, HANGMAN!



MEANTIME,

THAT GETS RID OF TWO OF MY VICTIMS, THE ONLY ONE LEFT, IS THAT GORDON GIRL - AND SHE'S NEXT!

HEH, HEH, SO THE JUDGE AND THE HANGMAN ARE BOTH GONE!



THE HANGMAN RETURNS TO JUDGE HALE'S APARTMENT...



GONE? I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN IT!

AND I THINK I KNOW WHERE HE'S HEAD-ING, TOO!



AT THELMA'S APARTMENT... WHY ALL THE ARTIL- LERY, ANTHRACITE? AH PROMISED AN'D GUARD YOU WIF MY LIFE-



AN' THAT'S WHAT AN'M GONNA DO!

OH, HO HO HUM! LACK-A-DAY! AH SURE COULD DO WIF SOME SHUT-EYE-BUT AN'LL STAY AWAKE IF N IT KILLS ME!



A FEW MINUTUES LATER...



THE DOOR EASES OPEN, AND THE JACKAL ENTERS THE ROOM...



SCOUNDLESSLY, HE SLIPS INTO THE NEXT ROOM, HIS MURDEROUS FINGERS REACHING OUT FOR THELMA'S THROAT!...



I WISH BOB WOULD COME BACK! I FEEL-



YOU FEEL THE JACKAL'S FINGERS AROUND YOUR THROAT? THAT'S WHAT YOU FEEL? HELP!

SO YOU THOUGHT YOU GOT RID OF THE JACKAL, EH? YOU THOUGHT I'D DIE ON THE GALLOWS! BUT NOW YOU ARE THE ONE WHO WILL DIE!

DON'T BE SO SURE OF THAT, JACKAL!

THE HANGMAN! YOU—AGAIN! THIS TIME I'LL FIX YOU FOR GOOD!

YOU MURDERING HOUND! YOU'VE CLAIMED YOUR LAST VICTIM!



THE JACKAL SEIZES A HUGE BRASS VASE, LIFTS IT HIGH ABOVE HIS HEAD— AND HURLS IT!

HEH, HEH! THE FOOL! NOW— THE JACKAL WILL FINISH THEM BOTH!

BUT THE JACKAL IS ALWAYS A GENTLEMAN! LADIES FIRST!



OUTSIDE IN THE FOYER, ANTHRACITE TEETERS ON HIS CHAIR...

.. AND FALLS OFF!

MAH GOODNESS! THAT CHICKEN MUST A' BEEN LOADED!

I'LL SETTLE MY SCORE WITH THE HANGMAN SOME OTHER TIME! RIGHT NOW, I MUST ESCAPE!



THE JACKAL ATTACHES THE END OF THE ROPE INSIDE THE APARTMENT AND LETS HIMSELF DOWN THE SIDE OF THE BUILDING...



WHEN? WHAT A NASTY SMACK I GOT, THELMA - ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?



SO THERE HE IS! THINKS HE'LL MAKE A GETAWAY DOES HE? HEY, JACKAL!



CURSES! BUT HE'LL NEVER GET ME NOW! I'LL ESCAPE AND COME BACK ANOTHER DAY TO FINISH HIM OFF!



ALL I HAVE TO DO NOW IS LEAP ONTO THAT LEDGE BELOW AND I'M SAFE!



THE JACKAL LEAPS - UNMINDFUL OF THE FACT THAT THE NOOSE DANGLES PERILOUSLY CLOSE!!



HE'S CAUGHT HIS NECK IN HIS OWN NOOSE! DON'T LOOK, THELMA!



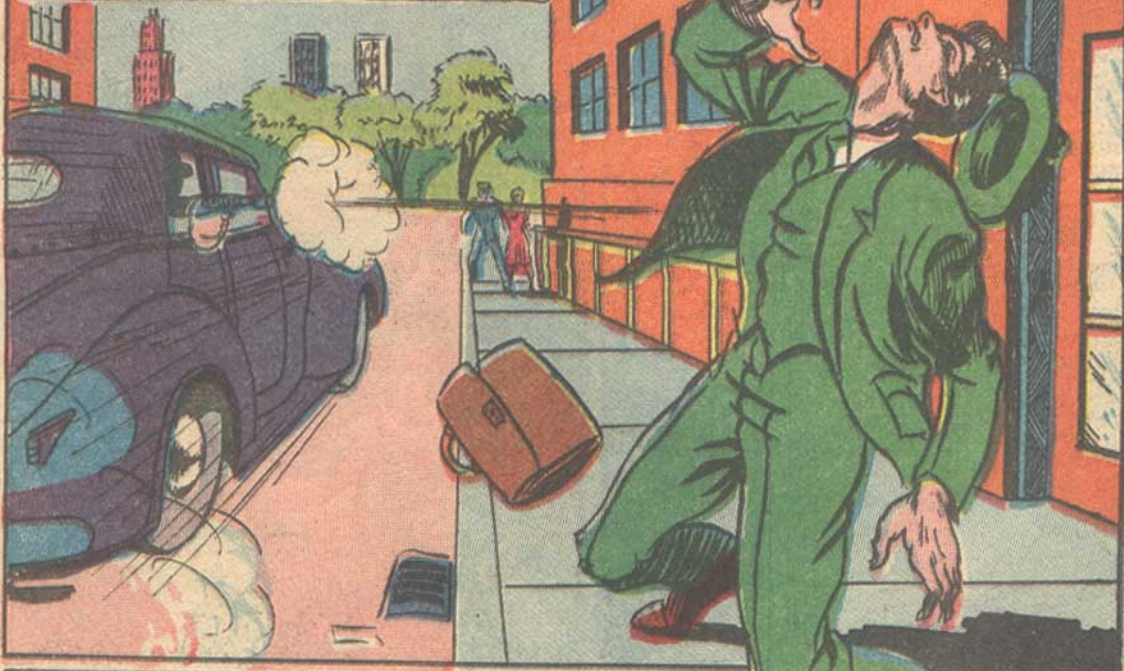
YAH GOODNESS! IS YOU HERE, BOSS? YOU ALL KIN RELAX! NOBODY COULD GET IN HERE WHILE AMM ON GUARD! NO SIR EE!



THE JACKAL ESCAPED THE GALLOWS - BUT IN THE END, HE WAS HIS OWN HANGMAN!

THE FIREBALL

TED TYLER, *THE FIREBALL*, GIVES HIMSELF HIS FIRST ASSIGNMENT AS A FIREMAN... TO QUESTION THE BIO-SHOT POLITICIAN, *JIM OLIVER*, ABOUT A FIRE STARTED UNDER PECULIAR CIRCUMSTANCES. AS HE AND HEDY HARRIS, THE FIRE CHIEF'S DAUGHTER, APPROACH THE BUILDING IN WHICH *OLIVER* HAS HIS OFFICE, A HORRIBLE TABLEAU IS ENACTED BEFORE THEIR EYES.

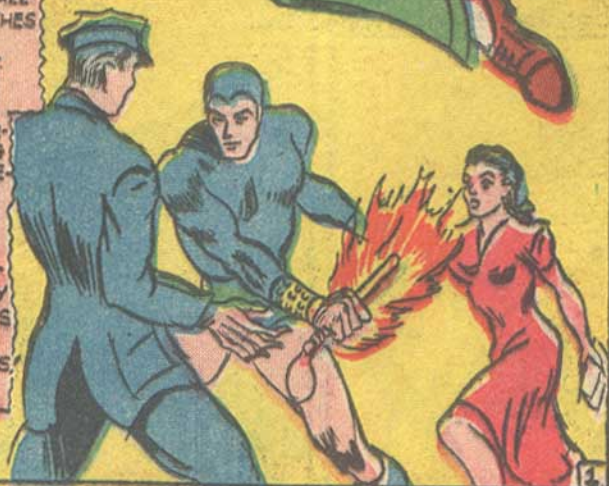


IN THE TWINKLING OF AN EYE, TED DISCARDS HIS CLOTHING AND *THE FIREBALL* STANDS FORTH...

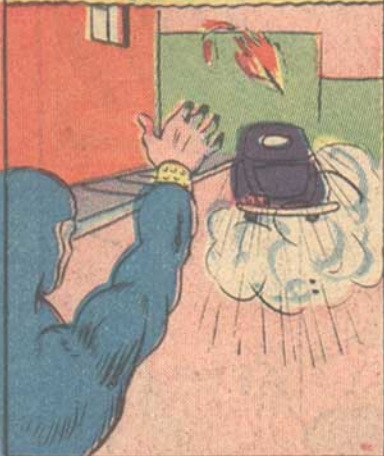


"THE MISERABLE MURDERING RATS."

THE FIREBALL SNATCHES THE NIGHT STICK FROM A PURSUING POLICEMAN AND IT IMMEDIATELY BURSTS INTO FLAMES.



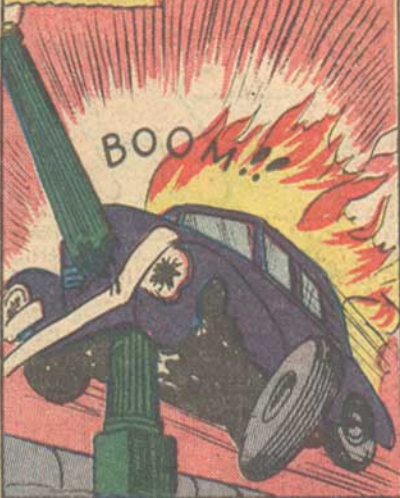
THE FIREBALL HURLS THE FLAMING NIGHT-STICK AFTER THE FLEEING CAR...



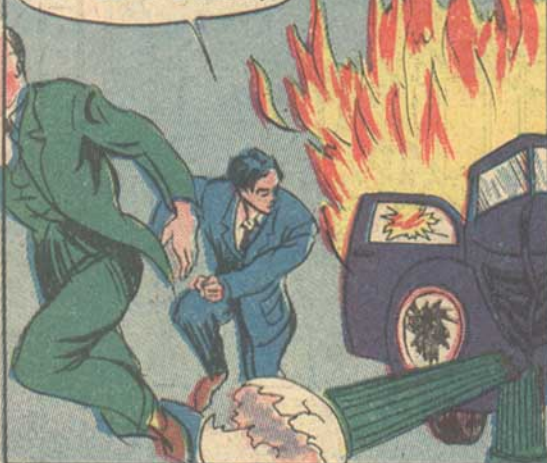
.. AND IGNITES THE CANVAS TOP! SOON THE CAR IS ALMOST COMPLETELY ABLAZE.



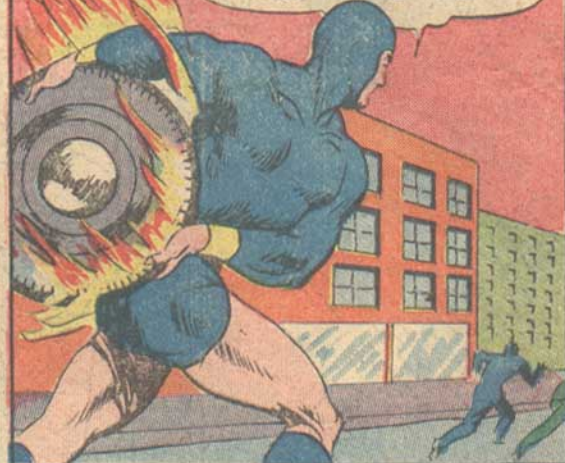
AND THEN...



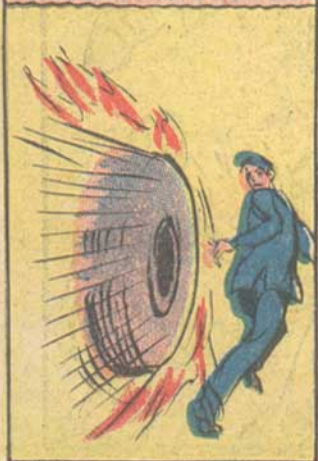
CRIPES! WE'RE IN FER IT NOW! LET'S BREEZE!



SO... THE BOYS DON'T SEEM ANXIOUS TO MEET ME!



A FLAMING WHEEL ZOOMS DOWN THE STREET TOWARD THE SCURRYING BANDITS...



HOLY JOE!... LOOK WHAT'S COMIN' AT US! SCATTER, OR...



BUT BEFORE THEY CAN SCATTER...





THE FIREBALL ABSORBS THE THE BANDITS BURNING CLOTHING...

RUNS UP AND FLAMES FROM



ALL RIGHT, LICE, ARE YOU GOING TO DO SOME TONGUE-WAGGING OR DO I REALLY GET TO WORK ON YOU?

NO, NO! WE'LL TELL!



THE POLICE COME CHASING UP!



YOU FELLOWS ARE JUST IN TIME TO GET AN EARFUL OF SOME INTERESTING CHIN MUSIC.

IT WAS JIM OLIVER! HE PAID US TO RUB OUT HIS SECRETARY.

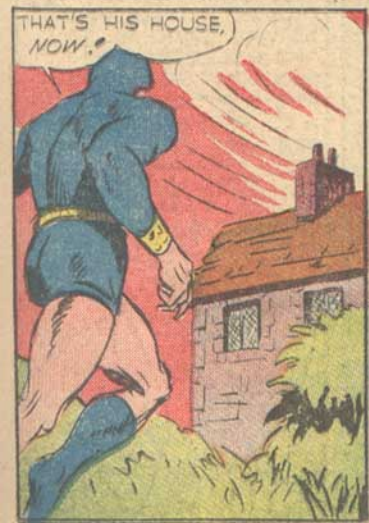


YOU DON'T EXPECT US TO BELIEVE THAT A GUY AS BIG AS JIM OLIVER WOULD HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THIS MESS.

THEY'RE DIRTY LYING RATS... WE'LL SWEAT THE TRUTH OUT- TA 'EM DOWN AT HEADQUARTERS!



HMM... SO JIM OLIVER IS ABOVE SUSPICION, EH? I'LL PAY A VISIT TO THE BIG-SHOT AND DO A LITTLE OF MY OWN BRAND OF SWEATING!



THAT'S HIS HOUSE, NOW.



HELLO, MR. OLIVER!

CRASH!

YOU! FIREBALL! WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?



THIS IS THE MEANING! THOSE INITIALS ARE ON REVERSE! THEY WERE BRANDED THERE BY THE CUFF LINK OF THE GUY I TRIED TO RESCUE FROM A BURNING HOUSE SOME- WHILE AGO. A GUY WHO HAD A REASON FOR NOT WANTING ME TO KNOW WHO HE IS, AND THOSE INITIALS MIGHT BE YOURS.

YOU'RE CRAZY, FIREBALL! IT'S JUST A CO-INCIDENCE!

AND I SUPPOSE IT'S JUST A CO-INCIDENCE THAT YOUR SECRETARY WAS MURDERED IN FRONT OF YOUR BUILDING JUST NOW!



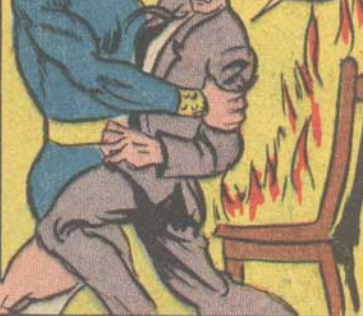
THE FIREBALL GRASPS A CHAIR WHICH IMMEDIATELY BURSTS INTO FLAMES...

I SEE I'LL HAVE TO USE DIFFERENT METHODS OF PERSUASION TO MAKE YOU TALK!



HERE'S A SAMPLE OF THE KIND OF HOTSEAT IN STORE FOR YOU!

NO..NO! TAKE ME TO THE POLICE! I'LL TELL EVERYTHING!



NOW YOU'RE COOKIN' WITH GAS!..WE'LL DROP IN ON THE CITY'S FINEST RIGHT NOW!



66th PRECINCT

HERE WE ARE!.. NOW GET YOUR TONGUE OILED UP!.. AND DON'T HOLD ANYTHING BACK!



HOLD ONTO YOUR HAT, CHIEF...BIG-SHOT OLIVER'S JUST ABOUT TO CONFESS TO MURDER...AND MAYBE A COUPLE OF OTHER AS-SORTED CRIMES!



SUDDENLY, WITHOUT WARNING..

HEY, WHAT'S THIS!

SNAP THE CUFFS ON HIM, QUICK!



THIS WATER HOSE'LL KEEP YOU FROM GOING INTO YOUR FLAME ACT, FIREBALL!

YEAH, AND THIS GUN SHOOTS AWFUL QUICK!



HA, HA, HA! SO YOU THOUGHT ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS BRING ME TO THE POLICE, EH? I SHOULDN'T BE A BIT SURPRISED IF THE COPS GET A CONFESSION OF MURDER FROM YOU!



HERE HE IS,
FIREBALL!

WHAT'S
UP!

YOU TOLD ME YOU WERE AN HONEST
COP, DIDN'T YOU?.. WELL, HERES YOUR
CHANCE TO PROVE IT!.. IF I CAN GET
OUT OF HERE FOR ABOUT AN HOUR,
I MIGHT GET SOMETHING ON
OLIVER! BUT I
HAVEN'T A
SECOND TO SPARE!

! YOU'RE ASK-
ING ME SOMETHING I CAN'T
DO!.. ON THE OTHER
HAND, IF THE SPRINKLING
SYSTEM WEREN'T TO WORK,
THAT WOULDN'T
BE MY FAULT
WOULD IT?

THE
FIREBALL
NEEDS
NO
SECOND
HINT,
AND SO
IN A FEW
MOMENTS

GOOD OLD REEVES!..
HE'S ENABLED ME
TO BURN MY WAY
OUT OF
THIS
CHICKEN
COOP!

AT THAT MOMENT, OTHER VISITORS ARE AT THE
HOUSE, SEARCHING THROUGH THE DEBRIS...

I FOUND IT, BOYS!
HERE'S THE
SAFE!

OKAY, FINGERS!
START
CRACKIN' IT!
WE DON'T
WANNA FOOL AROUND
HERE!

NOW TO GET TO THE BURNED-
DOWN HOUSE WHERE I FIRST MET
MY FRIEND, *OLIVER!*

HERE SHE COMES!.. THESE MUST
BE THE PAPERS THE BOSS TOLD
US TO BURN!.. WELL,
HERE GOES!

JUST THEN..

SO I
HAD THE RIGHT
HUNCH
AFTER
ALL!

YES, THE FIREBALL! AND I'M
GOING TO TEACH YOU NOT
TO PLAY WITH FIRE!

TH.. THE
FIREBALL!

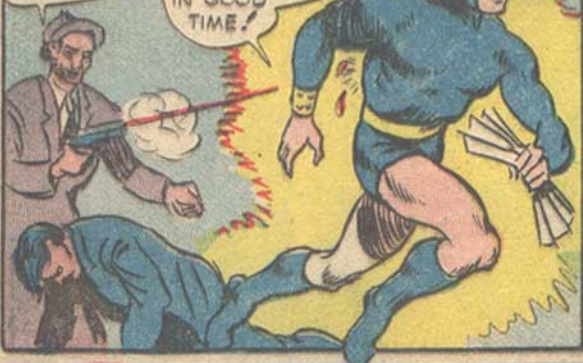
BOOM!

Awwww..

THE FIREBALL ABSORBS THE FLAMES FROM THE BURNING EVIDENCE....

WH.. THE BULLETS ARE MELTING!

I CAN'T BE BOTHERED WITH THESE SMALL FRY NOW. THEY'LL ALL BE TAKEN CARE OF IN GOOD TIME!



WHILE AT JIM OLIVER'S HOME ..

HAW, HAW! 'MAGINE THAT FIREBALL THINKIN' HE COULD OUTSMART(HIC) ME, BIG JIM OLIVER. I RUN THISH TOWN(HIC) 'N EVERYONE IN IT. SOON ASH MY BOYS BURN UP THAT EVIDENSH(HIC) WON'T BE ANYONE ABLE TO TOUCH ME!



SUDDENLY..!

YOU'RE UNDER ARREST, OLIVER!



I'LL HAVE YOU BROKE FOR THIS, REEVES, I'LL...

YOU'RE THROUGH, OLIVER! THE GOVERNOR IS TAKING A HAND IN YOUR CASE!



AND HE'S GIVEN ME SPECIAL POWERS, ON THE STRENGTH OF EVIDENCE THE FIREBALL FOUND, TO PUT YOU BEHIND BARS. ALL THE CROOKED COPS WORKING WITH YOU ARE ALSO ON THEIR WAY OUT!



NEXT DAY..! HMM, QUITE A PEECE IN TODAY'S PAPER ABOUT THE GRAFT SHAKEUP IN THIS CITY!



YES, AND YOU'RE THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR IT.. OH TED, YOU'RE WONDERFUL!

HEY! WH...



WHEW! YOU SURE I'M TAKING LESSONS FROM THE FIREBALL.... AND THIS IS ONLY THE FIRST!

SERGEANT BOYLE

BY HUBBELL-

SERGEANT BOYLE'S ARM GOT IN THE WAY OF A NAZI SNIPER'S MACHINE GUN IN SYRIA, AND HE IS NOW ENJOYING (?) AN ENFORCED VACATION IN PHYSHNCHIPS, A SMALL FARMING VILLAGE ON THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. AS BOYLE AND TWERP RETURN TO THEIR ROOMS, THE LOCAL HOME DEFENSE UNIT LINES UP FOR ITS WEEKLY INSPECTION....

NO KIDDIN', SARGE, DID YOU EVER SEE SO MUCH FRUIT? IT JUST DROPS OFF THE TREES!

BOY, WHAT A HIGHCLASS BUNCH, NOW THAT'S WHAT I'D CALL A SNAPPY LOOKIN' OUTFIT!



YOU MUST BE SERGEANT BOYLE, NO? YOU LIKE SAY A FEW WORDS TO THE ARMY?

BETTER NOT TEMPT ME, IT MIGHT NOT BE TOO COMPLIMENTARY!

NO, NO, I INSEEST!

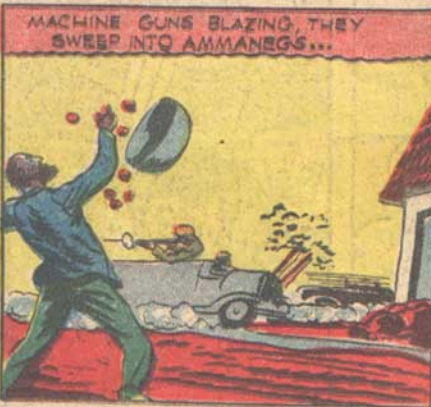


WELL OKAY, YOU ASKED FOR IT, NOW LISTEN TO ME, YOU MEN, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE SOLDIERS, ALTHOUGH NO ONE'D EVER KNOW. ALSO, THERE'S A WAR GOING ON AND IT'S JUST DUMB LUCK THAT IT HASN'T HIT THIS SPOT YET!



IF THE HEINIES WALKED IN TOMORROW, YOU MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO HOLD THEM OFF, BUT YOU COULD AT LEAST PUT UP A FRONT, THAT RIFLE HASN'T BEEN CLEANED SINCE THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR, AN' WHY DON'T YOU PULL UP YOUR SOCKS? AND YOU DIDN'T EVEN BOTHER PUTTIN' ON YOUR SHOES!





SERGEANT BOYLE, MEANWHILE,
IS GETTING HUNGRY, BUT PLENTY!

!!@*?! TWERP'S BEEN
PUTTERING AROUND THAT KIT-
CHEN FOR
HALF AN
HOUR,
I WONDER
WHAT'S
UP.



LISTEN THERE, TWERP, HOW ABOUT SOME VITTLES/ OR I MAYBE WE'VE GIVEN UP EATING? BROCCOLI!



FOR PETE'S SAKE!
ARE YOU KIDDIN'?
THAT'S NOTHING
TO CRY ABOUT.

IT ISN'T
THAT, YOU
DOPE, IT'S
THIS ONION.



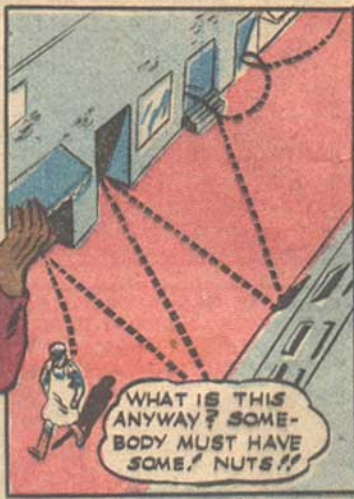
KEEP AN EYE
ON THE STEAK,
SARGE, I'LL
BE
RIGHT BACK!

WELL, OKAY!
BUT MAKE IT
SNAPPY BEFORE
I DIE OF STARVA-
TION.



TWO BIG
BUNCHES OF
BROCCOLI AN'
NEVER MIND
WRAPPIN' EM,

NO MORE
BROCCOLI.



SAY, NOW THERE'S
AN IDEA, I CAN RIDE
OVER TO THE NEXT
TOWN, AMMANEGS.
IT'S ONLY 5 MILES!



I'LL BE
BACK BE-
FORE BOYLE
EVEN KNOWS
I'M GONE!



GEE, THE JOINT'S
DESERTED!

HEY!
HOW ABOUT
A LITTLE
SERVICE!

SHUT
UP!



WHAT CAN BE KEEPING TWERP?
I WONDER.



OF ALL THE BURGERS TO BE STUCK IN, PX!! I'D EVEN WELCOME SEEIN' THAT DRIP COLLINS.



HELPA, CROOKA, COME BACK.



WHAT'S EATIN' THIS GUY? HE SEEMS EXCITED.

ATSA WHAT I SAID, ONE ENGLISH SOLDIER, HE STEAL MY BICYCLE, I GETA HEEM BACK?



LET'S GET THIS STRAIGHT, A GUY IN AN ENGLISH UNIFORM SWIPED YOUR BIKE AND HEADS DOWN... HEY, NOW WHO'S THIS?



HELP! NAZIS. OOOOOOH, IT'S AWFUL!



WAIT UP A MINUTE, PAL, WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT? LET'S HAVE IT.



NAZIS, HUNDREDS OF 'EM, THEY'RE ALL OVER THE VILLAGE, I MUST GET HELP.

HEINIES? HOW COME YOU GOT AWAY? DID THEY SEE YOU?



NO, I HID IN THE BUSHES BY THE RIVER WHILE THEY WERE SEARCHING FOR ME, ALMOST I COULD TOUCH THEM, THEY THOUGHT I DROWNED.

NO, NO, DON'T GO, YOU'LL BE KILLED.



SEE THAT THAT MESSAGE GETS TO THE GENERAL, TELL HIM TO WAIT TILL HE GETS MY SIGNAL, IT'S A BROAD CHANCE BUT WE'VE GOT TO TAKE IT.

AN' I'VE NURSED THIS ARM LONG ENOUGH.

TAKEN PRISONER, TWERP IS BROUGHT BEFORE THE NAZI COMMANDER...

WHO ISS DIS? HE WAS IN A GRO- WHERE DID YOU FIND HIM? CERY. HE SAYS HE WAS BUYING BROCCOLI.



SO YOU ARE A COOK, NO? GOOT. YOU VILL COOK FOR US, UND IT HAD BETTER BE GOOT.



GIFFS NOW A SEFFEN. BOY, IF I ONLY HAD A GUN, WE'D SEE SOME REAL SHOOTING.



SUDDENLY, A PAIR OF MUSCULAR HANDS PLUNGE THROUGH THE WINDOW...



DID YOU SEND FOR AN EX-TERMINATOR?



COME BACK HERE, I'M NOT FINISHED WITH YOU!

HELP! AN ENGLISHER! HELP!

DON'T WORRY, SARGE, I'LL GET HIM! NO, DON'T, TWERP, HE'S WARNED THE WHOLE PLACE BY NOW. BESIDES I HAVE A BETTER PLAN.



GOT THAT? IT'S UP TO YOU NOW SO BE SURE THERE AREN'T ANY SLIPS. I'LL HIDE IN HERE TILL THE COAST IS CLEAR.



KEEP COOL, BOYLE, LEAVE EVERYTHING TO ME.

DOT SPY. WHERE ISS HE? SPEAK! SPY? OH-HIM, HE ESCAPED OUT THE WINDOW. SAY, CAPTAIN, I JUST HAD A THOUGHT.



ESCAPED? SCATTER UND FIND HIM, MEN.

IF I SET UP A GRILL IN THE TOWN SQUARE, YOU GUYS COULD HAVE A REAL WEINIE ROAST. HOW ABOUT IT?

SAY, DOT'S A GOOD IDEA. GO TO IT!



WHILE THE NAZIS SCOUR THE VILLAGE IN SEARCH OF DOYLE...



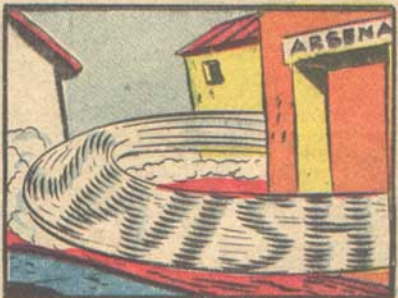
TWERP SETS UP THE OUTDOOR KITCHEN AND LIGHTS THE FIRE...



AND SO, SOON THE AROMA OF WEINERS AND ONION SOUP DRIFTS THROUGH THE STREETS...



NOBODY'S LOOKIN' NOW! I THINK I CAN GET TO THE ARSENAL UNSEEN!



SO FAR, SO GOOD! NOW TO RIG UP THESE GUNS!



ACH! DOT'S DE FIRST REAL SAUSAGE I-HAFF SEEN SINCE... HIMMEL! VASS ISS?



LOOK! GUNS! WE ARE SURROUNDED!

YEAH! YOU'RE SURROUNDED, YOU HEINES, AN' THE FIRST ONE WHO MAKES A MOVE GETS IT!

IT'S A TRAP!



THAT'S THE LAST ONE AND THEY HAVEN'T SPOTTED ME YET! WELL, HERE GOES NOTHIN'!

NO, NO. IT'S ALL A TRICK. DEY HAF NO ARMY. QUICK! TO DE ARSENAL!



AT THIS MOMENT, THE HOME DEFENSE ARMY, IN ANSWER TO BOYLE'S SHOT, RUSHES INTO AMMANEGS...



THE TWO FORCES COME MOMENTARILY FACE TO FACE....



GERMANS. RUNA FOR YOUR LIVES!

HELP. NAZIS. RUN LIKE ANYTHING.

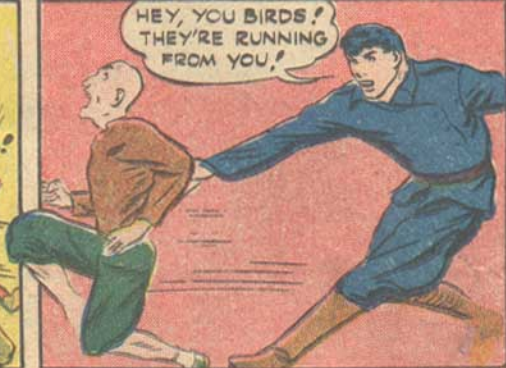
WELL, I'LL BE A MONKEY'S UNCLE.

RUN!

ACH. HIMME!



HEY, YOU BIRDS! THEY'RE RUNNING FROM YOU!



WHAT FROM US THEY ARE RUNNING?

LOOK! THEY ARE RUNNING THE OTHER WAY! AFTER THEM!



THE UNEXPECTED RESULT OF THIS TEST OF NERVES AT FIRST PUZZLES THE DEFENDERS... THEN TO A MAN, THEY TURN AND PURSUE THE DISORGANIZED GERMANS INTO THE HILLS...



BOY! THAT SURE WAS ONE NEVER STOP FOR THE BOOKS! THEY'LL NEVER STOP RUNNING! COME ON, SARGE, LET'S EAT!



BOYLE. LOOK. THE FOOD - IT'S ALL GONE.

WHAT? IT CAN'T BE!



COLLINS! SO YOU ATE ALL THE CHOW!

H'YA BOYLE! IT WAS SWELL OF YOU TO HAVE THAT SPREAD FOR US! BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW WE WERE COMIN'?



FOR YOU? WHY YOU... ???@#!

HEY! SUCH HOS-PITALITY! OKAY, IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU WANT IT!!

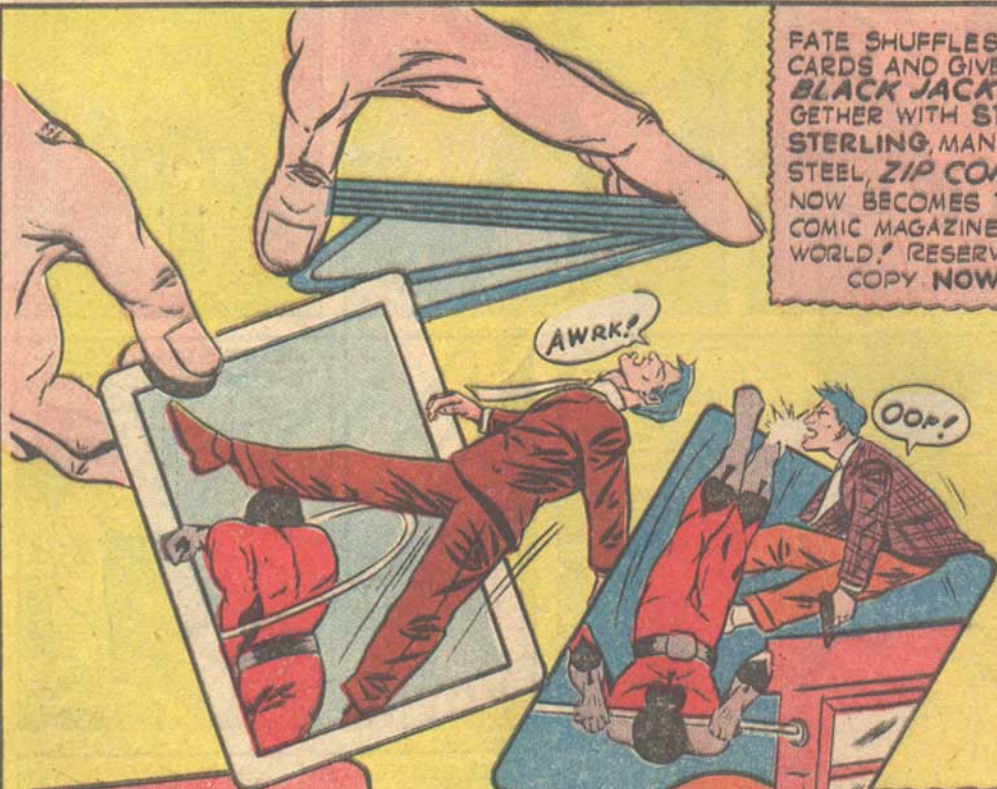


NEW! DIFFERENT! SPECTACULAR!

BLACK JACK

STARTING IN THE NOV. ISSUE OF ZIP COMICS!!

FATE SHUFFLES THE CARDS AND GIVES YOU-
BLACK JACK! TO-
GETHER WITH STEEL
STERLING, MAN OF
STEEL, *ZIP COMICS*
NOW BECOMES THE *BEST*
COMIC MAGAZINE IN THE
WORLD! RESERVE YOUR
COPY NOW!!



LAW BREAKERS!
YOUR DOOM IS
SEALED! FOR
YOU HAVE BEEN
DEALT THE
BLACK JACK



MADAM Satan



UP THROUGH THE DARK CLOUDS TO BALD MOUNTAIN, STRONGHOLD OF THE DEVIL, COMES BROTHER SUNBEAM. ARRIVING, HE FINDS THE DEVIL ABOUT TO SEND MADAM SATAN INTO THE WORLD ON ONE OF HER ERRANDS OF MISERY AND DESTRUCTION.

HO! SATAN! I COME TO DELIVER A MESSAGE. GIVE UP YOUR EVIL PLOTTING AGAINST MAN. FOR YOU ARE DOOMED TO FAILURE. MAN IS ESSENTIALLY GOOD!

YOU FOOL, ONCE I HAVE BECOME IMBEDDED IN MAN'S HEART, THERE IS NO ROOM FOR GOOD. EVIL WILL PREVAIL!

THE SCENE IS AN ART EXHIBIT AT THE MID-TOWN GALLERIES. AMONG THE AUDIENCE IS IOLA.... MADAM SATAN.....



ISN'T THAT A BEAUTIFUL PAINTING!

THAT'S SOME OF RALPH SAUNDERS'S WORK. HE'S REALLY GOING PLACES!



DARLING, DO YOU HEAR WHAT THEY'RE SAYING!

YES DEAR, WHAT- EVER PRAISE I GET BELONGS TO YOU! MY WORK DEPENDS ON YOUR INSPIRATION!



RALPH, WHAT DID THAT... THAT PECULIAR LOOKING WOMAN WANT?

OH... AH... SHE ASKED ME TO DINE WITH HER TOMORROW TO DISCUSS ART!



NEXT DAY! SO ELLEN WAS ANGRY BECAUSE OF OUR APPOINTMENT!

SHE SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN. I TOLD HER IT WAS ONLY TO TALK ABOUT MY WORK!



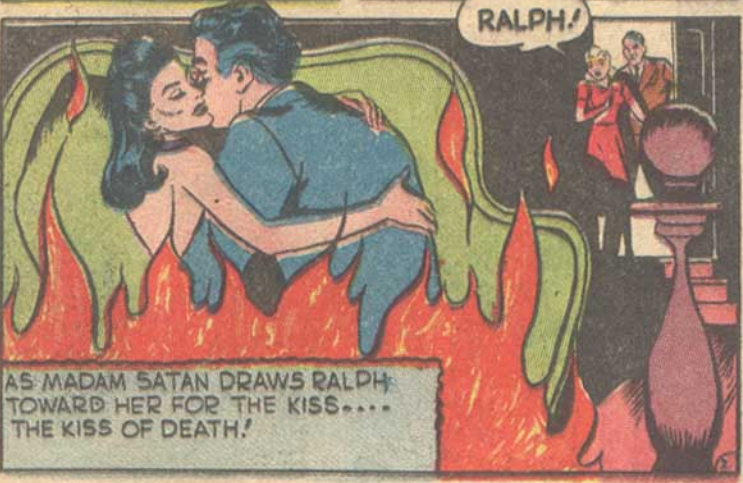
MAY I SEE YOU FOR A MOMENT... ALONE?

WHY... ER... YES

WEEKS LATER IN RALPH'S STUDIO...

IOLA, YOU... YOU'RE BECOMING AN OBSESSION! I CAN'T GET YOU OUT OF MY MIND. I... I'M MAD ABOUT YOU!

KISS ME, RALPH DARLING KISS ME!



RALPH!

AS MADAM SATAN DRAWS RALPH TOWARD HER FOR THE KISS.... THE KISS OF DEATH!



RALPH, I'VE BEEN YOUR FRIEND FOR A LONG TIME, BUT AFTER PLAYING SUCH A FOUL TRICK ON ELLEN, WE'RE THROUGH.... YOU... YOU MISERABLE CAD!

I'M IN LOVE WITH HER MYSELF YET SHE PREFERS YOU. I DON'T KNOW WHY, YOU'RE NOT WORTHY OF HER!

I'M PERFECTLY CAPABLE OF LEADING MY OWN LIFE I DON'T NEED ANY INTERFERENCE FROM YOU!



THIS IS WHAT YOU NEED, YOU UNGRATEFUL PUP



PERHAPS YOU'LL COME TO YOUR SENSES AND REALIZE WHAT YOU ARE DOING!



THE FOOLS, THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND YOU!

THEY'LL REGRET THIS INTRUSION INTO MY AFFAIRS!



FAITH IN HUMANS AND HUMAN GOODNESS, HA-HA- I'LL SHOW THAT MEDDLESOME SUNBEAM HOW MUCH THEY MEAN!

HIGH UP ON BALD MOUNTAIN THE DEVIL LOOKS ON GLEEFULLY...

IOLA, I'M MAD ABOUT YOU. I'M GOING TO PAINT YOU AS I SEE YOU AND PRESENT YOUR BEAUTIFUL SOUL TO THE WORLD!



THE STUPID MORTAL, HE'S LIKE CLAY IN MY HANDS. I CAN DO WITH HIM AS I WISH!

AFTER DAYS OF
FEVERISH WORK...

I'M TIRED!
I CAN'T GO ON!

RALPH! YOUR
WORK, YOU CAN'T
LEAVE IT LIKE
THIS!

I'LL BE BACK,
PERHAPS A LITTLE
WALK IN THE FRESH AIR,
BY MYSELF IS WHAT
I NEED.

AS HE WALKS AIMLESSLY THROUGH
THE STREETS, THINKING, THE ART-
IST'S FOOTSTEPS CARRY HIM
CLOSER AND CLOSER TO THE
WATERFRONT...

I'M SO CONFUSED,
SUDDENLY LIFE SEEMS
SO EMPTY AND
BARREN FOR ME!

AS HE DECIDES TO
JUMP, ELLEN, WHO HAS
SEEN HIM WANDERING
THROUGH THE STREETS,
COMES RUSHING UP

RALPH!
RALPH!
DON'T!

IT USED TO BE SO FULL AND COM-
PLETE. PERHAPS I'VE NOTHING
LEFT TO LIVE FOR IT MIGHT BE
WISER FOR ME TO GET OUT
OF IT ENTIRELY...

AS THEY STRUGGLE MOMENTARILY
ELLEN STUMBLES AND FALLS...

ELLEN! ELLEN!
WHAT HAVE I
DONE?!

WHAT'S COME
OVER YOU? ARE
YOU MAD?

LET ME ALONE!
IT'S THE ONLY
THING LEFT
FOR ME!

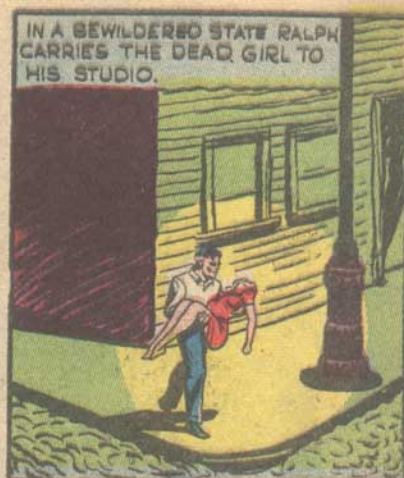




DAZEDLY, HE PLUNGES IN AFTER HER..



SHE'S DEAD! IT'S ALL MY FAULT!



IN A BEWILDERED STATE RALPH CARRIES THE DEAD GIRL TO HIS STUDIO.



IT'S ELLEN SHE'S DEAD.. I'VE KILLED HER!



DON'T TAKE IT SO HARD, RALPH! YOU'RE NOT TO BLAME.



I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.. IT'S SO HORRIBLE. YOUR THE ONLY ONE I HAVE TO TURN TO.

HE TURNS IN DESPAIR TO RECEIVE THE CONSOLING EMBRACE OF THE SHE-DEVIL... THE SPIRIT OF THE DEAD GIRL APPEARS....



RALPH DON'T KISS HER! SHE'S EVIL! SHE'S DEAD! LOOK AT THE PAINTING.

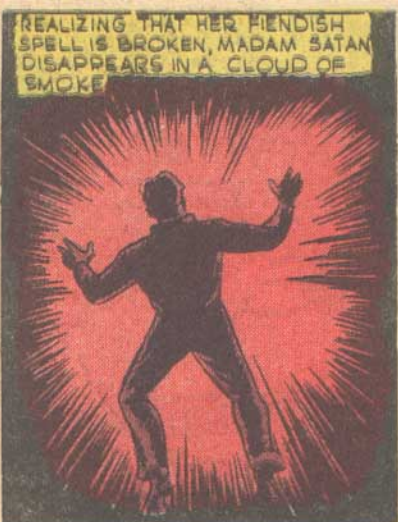
RUSHING TO THE CANVAS, HE RIPS OFF THE COVER, AND THERE, STARING AT HIM, IS IOLA IN HER TRUE LIGHT-MADAM SATAN!



DON'T DO IT, I TELL YOU!



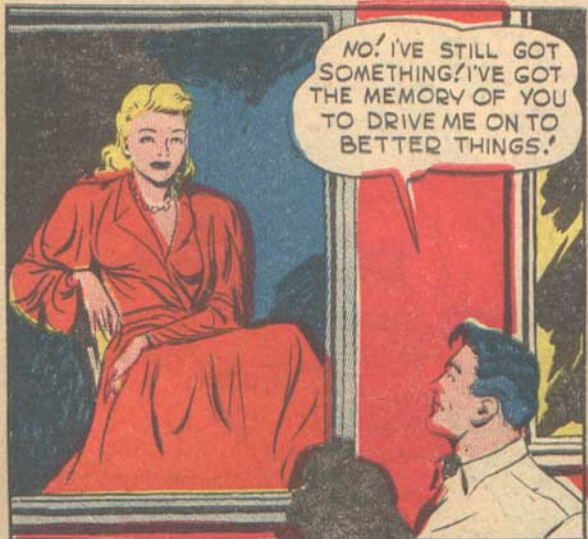
YOU FIEND! IT WAS YOU WHO DROVE ME TO THIS! YOU BLINDED ME TO ALL REALITY! I'M GOING TO KILL YOU!



REALIZING THAT HER FIENDISH SPELL IS BROKEN, MADAM SATAN DISAPPEARS IN A CLOUD OF SMOKE



WHAT A BLIND IDIOT I'VE BEEN! I'VE LOST EVERYTHING!



NO! I'VE STILL GOT SOMETHING! I'VE GOT THE MEMORY OF YOU TO DRIVE ME ON TO BETTER THINGS!



I CAN'T STOP! I'VE GOT TO KEEP ON WORKING AND WORKING!



MONTHS LATER

MR. SAUNDERS IT'S A GREAT PLEASURE TO PRESENT YOU WITH THE GREENFIELD MEDAL FOR REALISM IN ART. YOUR WORK IS A TRUE REPRESENTATION OF LIFE AND ITS STRUGGLES. IT IS SYMBOLIC AND WILL BE REMEMBERED!



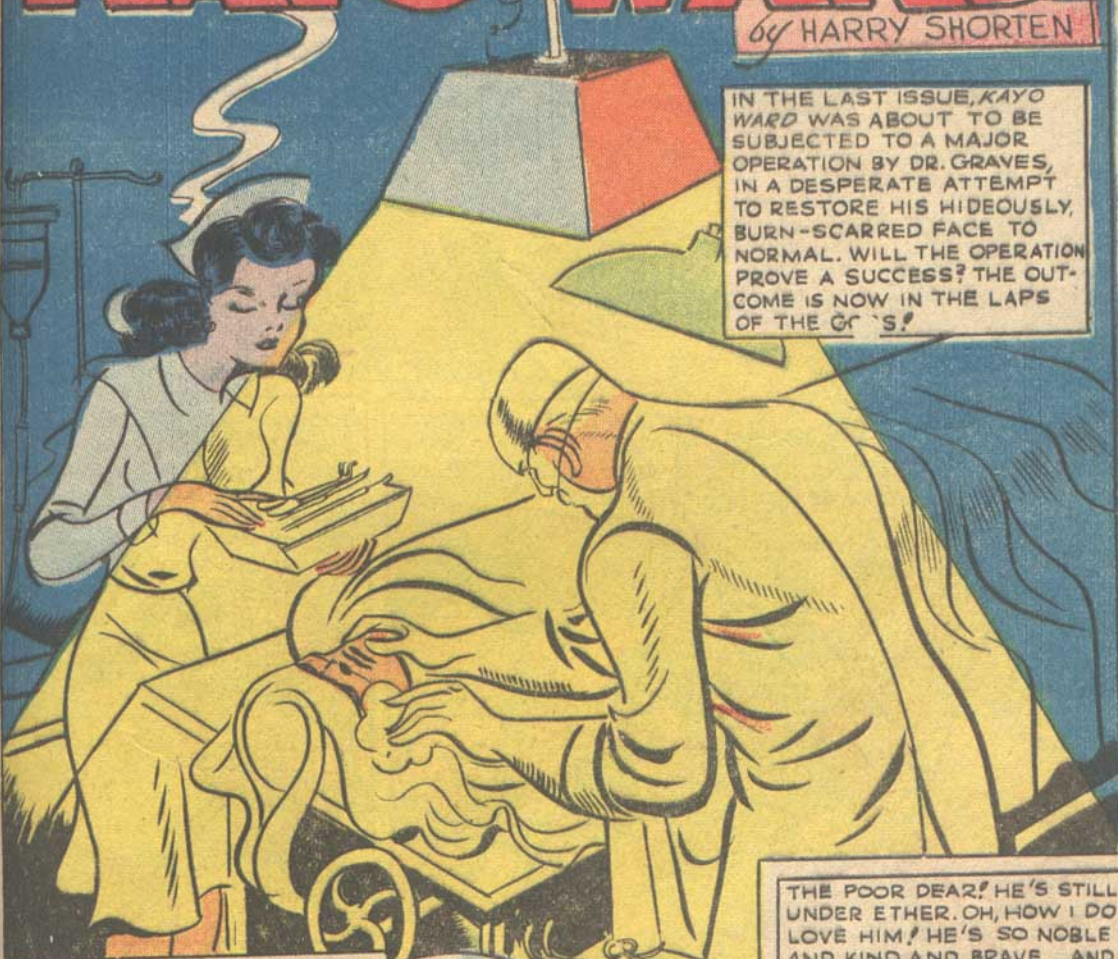
SEE, ELLEN, I KNEW IT. GOOD WILL ALWAYS CONQUER EVIL EVEN THOUGH AT TIMES THERE MUST BE GREAT SORROW AND TRAGEDY TO BRING IT TO THE FORE.

WHILE OFF THROUGH THE RISING SUN RIDE BROTHER SUNBEAM AND ELLEN'S SPIRIT, HAPPY AT THE THOUGHT THAT THEY HAVE GUIDED RALPH SAFELY THROUGH HIS TRIBULATIONS...

KAYO WARD

by HARRY SHORTEN

IN THE LAST ISSUE, KAYO WARD WAS ABOUT TO BE SUBJECTED TO A MAJOR OPERATION BY DR. GRAVES, IN A DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO RESTORE HIS HORRIBLY, BURN-SCARRED FACE TO NORMAL. WILL THE OPERATION PROVE A SUCCESS? THE OUTCOME IS NOW IN THE LAPS OF THE GODS!



MARTHA, DEAR! CALM YOURSELF! YOU'RE TREMBLING LIKE A LEAF!

I... I CAN'T HELP IT, MOTHER. OH, I DO HOPE FATHER IS ABLE TO FIX KAYO'S FACE!

I MUST GO IN AND SEE HOW HE FEELS!

THE POOR DEAR! HE'S STILL UNDER ETHER. OH, HOW I DO LOVE HIM! HE'S SO NOBLE AND KIND AND BRAVE... AND I DON'T CARE WHAT HIS FACE LOOKS LIKE!



B... BUT (SNIFF, SNIFF), HE DOESN'T LOVE ME. IT'S THIS GIRL ON THE PICTURE HE CONSTANTLY CARRIES WITH HIM HE REALLY LOVES (SOB, SOB).

BUT KAYO HAS NOT BEEN ASLEEP... AND AFTER MARTHA LEAVES...

NEXT DAY...
WELL, THIS IS THE DAY WE REMOVE THE BANDAGES, KAYO.

G.. GOSH. I NEVER DREAMED MARTHA FELT THAT WAY!



THE BANDAGES ARE REMOVED...

HMM.. TAKE A LOOK AT YOURSELF IN THIS MIRROR, SON.

G.. GEE DR. GRAVES I.. I'M SO NERVOUS I KIN HARDLY LOOK!

MARTHA?... YOUR DAD! HE'S DONE IT... I.. I'M NOT SCARRED ANY-MORE!

G.. GOLLY, I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY, OR HOW TO THANK YOU!

DON'T TRY, KAYO! JUST SEEING YOU THIS WAY MAKES ME HAPPY!



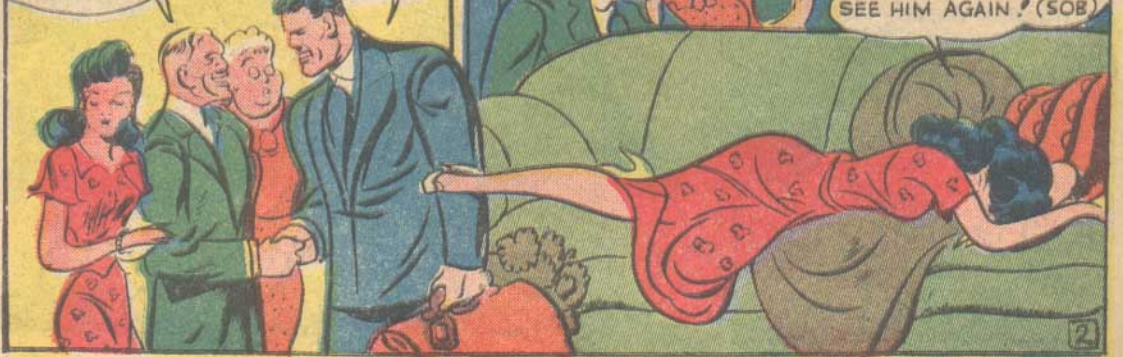
WEEKS LATER...

ARE YOU SURE YOU WON'T CHANGE YOUR MIND AND STAY, KAYO?

NO, DOCTOR GRAVES! I JUST GOTTA GO BACK TO MY FRIENDS! G'BYE 'N THANKS AGAIN!

MARTHA?... MY POOR LITTLE GIRL!... I DIDN'T KNOW YOU CARED FOR KAYO SO MUCH!

I DO, MOTHER. I DO (SOB) AND NOW I'LL NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN! (SOB)





LOOK, MISTER, A GENTLEMAN SHOULDN'T MAKE SUCH REMARKS!... NOW YOU APOLOGIZE OR ELSE...
 A WISE GUY, EH? OR ELSE WHAT?

YOU PICKED ON THE WRONG GUY TO GET TOUGH WITH! I'LL SHOW YOU... OOF!

ALL RIGHT!... I'LL TEACH YOUSE TO SLANDER A LADY'S NAME!

POW

NEXT TIME, YOUSE'LL DO LESS TALKIN' — OUT LOUD, ANYWAY!

Owo

ER.. KAYO, LET'S NOT GET THE LICENSE TODAY, I...UH.. HAVE A HEADACHE. LET'S GO HOME!

NEXT DAY...

KAYO! OH KAYO!

HELLO, KAYO? REMEMBER ME?

CONNIE! LEW!

HOW DID YOUSE KNOW I WUZ HERE

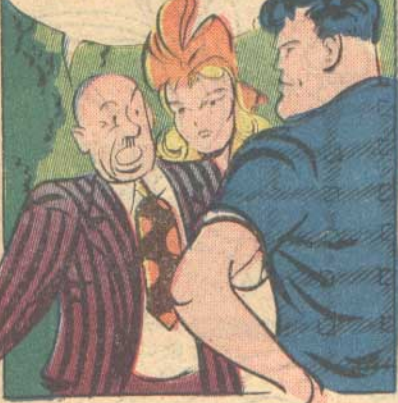
WE GOT A WIRE SIGNED "MARTHA" AND FLEW RIGHT DOWN HERE!.. OH, I'M SO GLAD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, DARLING!

BUT YOU'RE ENGAGED TO BE MARRIED, CONNIE, I CAN'T....

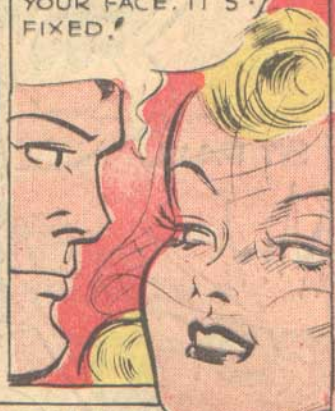
LISTEN, YA SAP! IT WAS ME WHO FORCED HER TO DO IT. DON'T YOU READ THE PAPERS. YOU WERE GIVEN UP FOR DEAD.



THEY FOUND YER JACKET UNDER A TRAIN. CONNIE'S HEART NEARLY BROKE. I TALKED HER INTO BECOMIN' ENGAGED TO VAN POOLE TO MAKE HER TRY'N FORGET!



YES, DARLING..AND I STILL DON'T THINK I WOULD HAVE GONE THROUGH WITH IT.. OH, KAYO. GRACIOUS! I JUST NOTICED YOUR FACE. IT'S FIXED!



YES!.. DOCTOR GRAVES DID IT! MARTHA IS HER DAUGHTER. WE WERE JUST ABOUT TO BE MARRIED, 'N I GUESS HMM.. SHE CHANGED I'D LIKE HER MIND.



AS ONE WOMAN TO ANOTHER, THANK YOU SO MUCH! I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU GAVE UP KAYO!

YES, I KNEW HE ALWAYS LOVED YOU AND I WANT KAYO TO BE HAPPY!



BLESS YOUSE, MARTHA! YOU'RE THE FINEST GAL A FELLOW COULD ASK FOR!

NO, I'M NOT, KAYO. YOU'VE GOT THE FINEST! GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK TO BOTH OF YOU!



G'BYE DOCTOR AND MRS. GRAVES!



GEE, CONNIE, I DON'T CARE ANYTHING ABOUT BOXING NOW THAT I'VE GOT YOU! OH, BUT I DO, KAYO!



I WANT YOU TO BECOME THE WORLD'S CHAMP AGAIN..RESTORE YOUR CONFIDENCE IN YOURSELF. THEN WE'LL TALK ABOUT LOVE AND MARRIAGE!



AND SO, WITH CONNIE'S ENCOURAGEMENT, KAYO WARD STARTS THE LONG, UPHILL TREK ALONG THE COMEBACK TRAIL.

OAKLAND

DENVER

ST PAUL

NEW YORK

PHILADELPHIA

IRIDKA

AND THEN, AT LAST, KAYO FINDS HIMSELF BACK IN BIG TIME AS HE SIGNS FOR HIS FIRST BIG BOUT...

WELL, KID, WE'RE IN. THIS GUY MAC BARE IS A BETTER CLOWN THAN HE IS A FIGHTER!

I DON'T CARE WHO HE IS! I FEEL LIKE I KIN LICK ANYBODY!

CAN KAYO WARD SUCCEED IN DOING WHAT NO OTHER CHAMP HAS EVER DONE... REGAIN HIS THRONE? FOLLOW THE ADVENTURES OF KAYO WARD IN EVERY ISSUE OF PEP COMICS!



BENTLEY

of SCOTLAND YARD

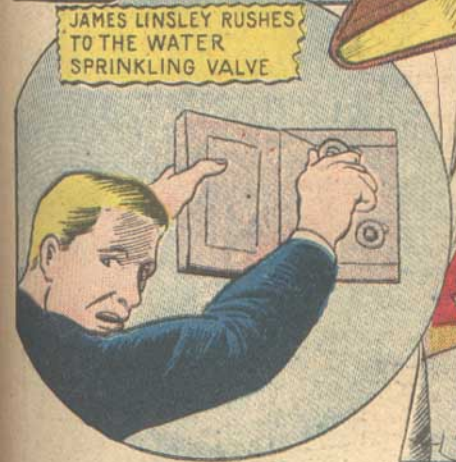


IN THE MANSION OF SIR LINSLEY, EARL OF KENT, A HORRIBLE TABLEAU IS ENACTED. THE ELDERLY EARL HAS CALLED HIS SON JAMES AND IS ABOUT TO TELL HIM SOMETHING, WHEN SUDDENLY, A SOLID SHEET OF FLAME ENVELOPES HIS BODY!



b. montana

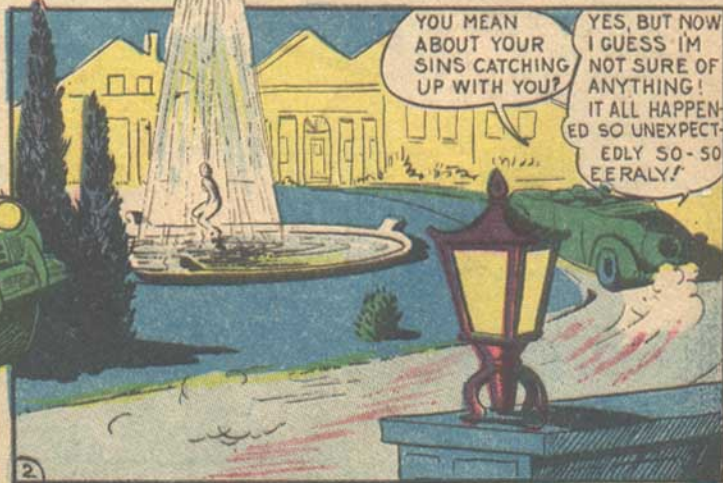
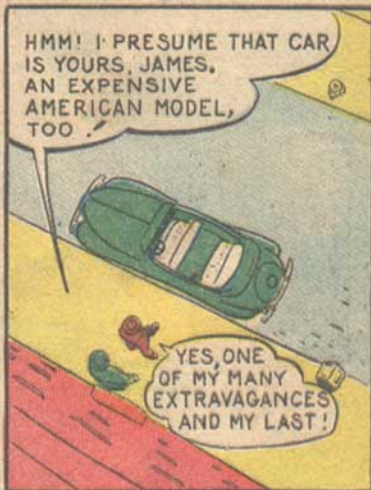
JAMES LINSLEY RUSHES TO THE WATER SPRINKLING VALVE



AND AS THE SPRINKLER IS TURNED ON, AN ALARM AUTOMATICALLY GOES OFF ATTRACTING THE REST OF THE HOUSEHOLD.



EEEE-
I-I-I
CANT LOOK!



IT'S THE MASTER, MR REEVES SHALL I TAKE HIS COAT?

NO, JAMES, I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT MYSELF!

JAMES, OH I'M SO GLAD YOU CAME BACK!

I'VE BROUGHT INSPECTOR BENTLEY, DEAR

BRR! IT'S CHILLY OUT TONIGHT.

I'LL HAVE A FIRE IN A MOMENT, SIR.

YES, DO, REEVES!

ALLOW ME TO BRUSH YOUR CLOTHING, SIR

NO THANKS, REEVES. I'D LIKE TO TAKE A LOOK AT THE BODY AT ONCE.

I PUT SIR LINSLEY IN HIS ROOM, SIR. THIS WAY, SIR.

THE REST OF YOU WAIT DOWN HERE.

BRR - IT IS RATHER COLD I'LL WARM MYSELF UP A BIT.

SUDDENLY!

HELP!

BENTLEY COMES RUSHING DOWN!

JAMES! HE'S BURNING TO DEATH!

BENTLEY, RIPS A DRAPE OFF THE WALL AND—

STAND BACK EVERYBODY!

FLAMES! FLAMES OF PURGATORY! I WARNED HIM!

BENTLEY WRAPS THE DRAPE ABOUT JAMES' BODY TO SMOTHER THE FLAMES.



I HOPE I DIDN'T GET HERE TOO LATE!

JAMES! JAMES! DARLING HOW - HOW ARE YOU?

I'M ALL RIGHT CHRISTINA JUST A LITTLE SHAKEN UP, THAT'S ALL!

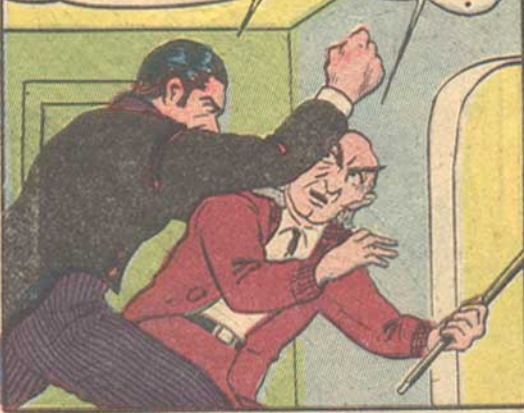


PERHAPS NOW YOU DON'T THINK I'M A CACKLING OLD FOOL. I TELL YOU YOU'RE ALL DOOMED. YOU HAVE WOODED THE DEVIL AND NOW YOU MUST PAY HIS PRICE HEH-HEH-HEH!



YOU MISERABLE GHOUL! YOU'RE THE ONE THAT'S BEHIND ALL THIS - I'LL...

GET AWAY. GET AWAY FROM ME.



HERE! STOP THAT! I'LL DO ALL THE ACCUSING AROUND HERE-AND ALL THE ARRESTING, TOO!

FORGIVE ME! MY MASTER'S DEATH - IT - IT'S UPSET ME SO!



NOW EVERYBODY REMAIN HERE. I'M GOING TO HAVE A LOOK ABOUT AND SEE WHAT I CAN FIND



BENTLEY SEARCHES THROUGH ALL THE ROOMS UNTIL AT LAST HE FINDS.....

HMM.. INTERESTING - VERY INTERESTING.



SEE HERE, CHRISTINA I DON'T THINK IT'S SAFE FOR YOU TO STAY HERE TONIGHT, I'M GOING TO TAKE YOU HOME.

IF YOU THINK IT BEST DEAR, I'LL GO!





BENTLEY
KNOWS THE
MURDERER -
DO YOU? CHECK
YOUR CHOICE OF
ONE OF THE
FOLLOWING

- 1 JAMES
- 2 CHRISTINA
- 3 UNCLE PHILBERT
- 4 REEVES, THE VALET
- 5 THE BUTLER

NOW TURN THE
PAGE FOR THE
SOLUTION.

NO TIME FOR EXPLANATIONS! THE KILLER KNOWS I'M ONTO HIM AND WILL TRY TO MAKE HIS ESCAPE. WHERE IS YOUR GARAGE?

RIGHT BEHIND THE HOUSE!



JUST AS I THOUGHT HE'S TAKING YOUR CAR FOR A GET-AWAY



HE HASN'T PICKED UP SPEED YET. I MAY BE ABLE TO OVERTAKE HIM!



A FLYING LEAP AND BENTLEY JUST MAKES IT!



CURSE YOUR CLEVERNESS BENTLEY! I'LL...

SUDDENLY

CRASH!

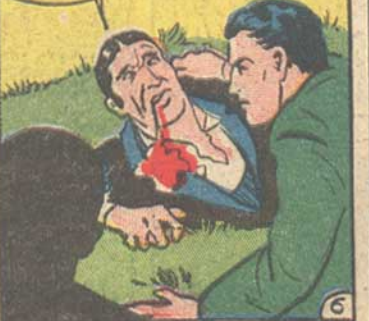


IN HEAVENS NAME! MY VALET, REEVES!

YES, REEVES, I KNEW IT WAS HIM WHEN I SAW A CHEMISTRY BOOK IN HIS ROOM!



I THOUGHT MY PLAN WAS FOOL-PROOF! I WOULD HAVE BEEN THE ONLY ONE TO INHERIT SIR LINSLEY'S FORTUNE IF THAT CURSED WASTREL, JAMES, HADN'T REFORMED! SIR LINSLEY CHANGED HIS WILL - AND I WAS LEFT OUT. I SWORE REVENGE UGH!



HE'S DEAD! WELL, THAT'S THE USUAL END OF ALL KILLERS - EVEN THE CLEVEREST. THAT POWDER ON YOUR COAT, CHRISTINA, WAS A HIGHLY INFLAMMABLE CHEMICAL WHICH BURST INTO FLAME EVEN AT ROOM TEMPERATURES.



REEVES SPREAD IT ON HIS VICTIMS CLOTHING WITH A WHISK BROOM WHEN HE WAS DUSTING THEM OFF!